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MONTANA WILDERNESS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

TO

REVIEW THE MONTANA WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

MISSOULA, MONT., JULY 5, 1983
ANACONDA, MONT., JULY 7, 1983
GREAT FALLS, MONT., JULY 9, 1983

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MONTANA WILDERNESS

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1983

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Missoula, Mont.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in the Federal Building, Missoula, Mont., Hon. John Melcher presiding.

Present: Senators Melcher and Baucus, and Congressman Williams.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and D. Michael Harvey, chief counsel for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator MELCHER. Good morning. This is the first of three public hearings of the Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that will be conducted this week on the question of wilderness in Montana. In addition, we will consider the question of "sufficiency" and "release" language regarding those areas of the national forests that, as a result of these hearings and the legislative process are found not to be of wilderness quality and, therefore, not to be pursued any further in consideration for wilderness. This hearing will be followed by a hearing in Anaconda on Thursday and Great Falls on Saturday. Congressman Marlenee isn't with us today. Is he in Anaconda?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes.

Senator MELCHER. He may join us in Anaconda on Thursday and all four of us plan to be in Great Falls on Saturday. We are hopeful that we'll get a good hearing record at each of these hearings this week, which will start the process of formulating a bill which we hope could be introduced by the end of the year.

Now, the first round of starting that process, of course, is to get the views of Montana people on the various areas in the State that are being considered for wilderness, and then pursue the points that are raised in the hearing record. In this way, we can find out what the consensus of viewpoint is in Montana by Montanans on how this forest land should be managed.

We are very much interested in the Montana viewpoint on which of the areas that have been considered for wilderness should be designated and which should not. With regard to those areas that are not going to be further considered as wilderness or do not merit a wilderness designation, we will want to include in the bill so-

called release language and sufficiency language so that the Forest Service, in managing those nonwilderness areas under the concept of multiple use, will not be threatened by a lawsuit tying up the general management practices on those areas.

We have a very long witness list today and also for each of the hearings at Anaconda and Great Falls. To be fair about it, we have decided that we'll prorate the time according to the number of witnesses. That works out to 3 minutes. There is a timer right there and it will be turned on on each occasion and so you won't be able to exceed the time limit. The buzzer will go off and the bell will ring and we'll have to go to the next witness.

We have encouraged everybody as they appear in the panels to allot their time to a spokesperson for the panel. To the extent that this is done, of course, more time will be allowed for that spokesperson, so keep that in mind.

It would be most helpful if you will just summarize your testimony, and draw attention to your main points. Point out the most important points and note that your written testimony gives the details on it. That flags it for us when we review the hearing record. All of the printed material received at these hearings and all the material which is submitted to the committee after the hearing for 2 weeks after the hearings are closed, will be included in the official record. We'll have that printed and available for distribution at a later date. It usually takes at least 2 or 3 months, or sometimes longer for a printed record to become available, so don't anticipate that you will see it before the end of the summer. It will be sometime into the fall before it will be available for general distribution. If you want to receive the printed record of these hearings, please sign up right outside the door. It will be sent to you when it's available.

Senator Baucus, do you have any comments to make at this time?

STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, John. I want to make three points. First, I don't think it should be lost upon all of us that this is one of the first times, in my memory anyway, if the the entire Montana congressional delegation, at least almost all of it, is in the same place at the same time on the same subject. That's a first. And I hope it's a second and a third and a fourth as the months and years go by. The reason, obviously, is this is a very important question. I think Montanans are trying to decide, as much as possible, which areas in the State should be and which areas should not be wilderness and how to resolve this question. We are, of course, pushed into this position, in part, by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision on the RARE II. None of us want a RARE III so it's our hope, and the delegation, and I know the hope of most Montanans, that we don't have a RARE III process but rather we, as much as possible, in the congressional level try to decide these questions.

Second, it is my hope, and I'm sure the hope of the delegation that we get a bill put together this year. It's also my hope that we get a bill passed this year which, as much as possible, it a

statewide bill which includes questions around the Bob Marshall and other areas of the State, addresses the sufficiency, addresses release language and the kind of release language that we think, as Montanans, makes the most sense.

Third, because of the long witness list, it will be difficult for us in the panel to ask the kinds of questions that we would like to ask of witnesses. We just don't have the time, so I encourage all of us to be as succinct as possible, get to the point and also, finally, to try to get to the heart of the matter with a view toward resolving some of the conflicts. I know all of us in the State, as independent people, we have our points of views and so forth, as we should have, but let's also remember that the other guy has a legitimate point of view, too, so let's work toward a resolution the best we can. I look forward to a good hearing and I hope this is a good precedent for future similar considerations. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Pat.

STATEMENT OF HON. PAT WILLIAMS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, John. It's been 4 years since the Forest Service completed their RARE II studies. As most of you know, the Forest Service evaluated and reviewed about 5 million acres of, primarily, Montana roadless land, and made a recommendation in 1979 that of that 5 million acres, about 600,000 acres had wilderness potential. Better than a million did not and should be released and about 3 million went into an area of further planning.

The RARE II studies were for several purposes. One of which was to determine which of the roadless areas had natural resource productivity potential, primarily forestry, which had significant recreational values, and which were important and fragile enough that they needed a stronger protection and should be so designated. All of us in the delegation want to act on the RARE II proposals now, and I think we'll be able to because, as I look at the—as I look at the Forest Service recommendations, the industrywide recommendations and those of the conservation community, one finds that there is quite a bit of cross match. The three agree on a considerable number of acres that should be released and a considerable number of acres that should be placed into wilderness. There is going to be, of course, some contention about some areas and some of that contention will not be resolvable except at the delegation level and through the process of simply voting in the Congress.

I do want to make the point that because Montana is diverse and because there is some contention about what should be wilderness and what shouldn't, the congressional delegation will, therefore, have some contention, because we will be attempting, as best we can, to listen to and represent as many of the varied communities of interest in this State as possible. I think that's the reason that this State, unlike some, has moved painstakingly on trying to resolve this wilderness question, because in my judgment, unlike any other State, Montanans have more diverse opinions about what should be wilderness and what shouldn't. But, in the end, we'll come to a resolution of this matter, as we do all matters, and like Max and John, I, too, am hopeful that we can do it with a mini-

mum amount of contention in Montana and that we can do it while still maintaining the good neighborliness which has always been a hallmark of the people of this State. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Pat, and Max. I have just one point to make at the outset to make sure there is no confusion. Not only are we discussing RARE II study areas, we are also discussing the wilderness study areas in the Lee Metcalf bill. There were nine Lee Metcalf study areas and they will be considered along with the RARE II wilderness study areas.

On my far right, and on Max's right is Tony Bevinetto of the Senate Energy Committee staff, and on Pat's left is Mike Harvey, also of the Senate committee staff.

The first panel will be called right now and we would appreciate, since all of you have available the witness list, that the next panel be ready to assume the witness chairs here without being called so we can proceed as rapidly as possible. I will now call the first group. All the witnesses have been lined up pretty much in the way they signed up, but we have grouped them into panels that have mutual concerns. Please bring your statements to the table and we will collect them. Anyone who does not have a witness list can secure one from any one of the staff. Bob, will you please proceed.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT N. HELDING, ATTORNEY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Mr. HELDING. Thank you, Senator. I will be brief; I will summarize. My name is Robert N. Helding; I'm the attorney and executive director of the Montana Wood Products Association based here in Missoula. Our members constitute a major part of Montana forest industry.

The issues in Montana's version of RARE II must be resolved in a reasonable manner at the earliest possible opportunity in order to provide the maximum amount of help to the recovery of the Montana timber industry. The last several years have been devastating and many firms are not engaged in a struggle to regain a portion of the business they once enjoyed. In a normal year, for example, Montana used to employ between 8,200 to 10,200 workers earning some $200 million yearly in salary. Last year this sum was cut virtually in half and we had some of the highest unemployment records in history. Lincoln County, for example, suffered an unemployment rate exceeding some 30 percent.

The Montana timber industry needs stability and it must know if it can develop in an orderly manner counting upon an adequate timber supply to accomplish its objectives. We have many plants that want to modernize and enlarge, but they are uncertain because of the question of future timber supplies. With some 70 percent of the timber in Montana belonging to the U.S. Government, it is imperative that the hassle over Federal land be settled as soon as possible. In addition to the industry, the counties and the school systems who are the recipients of 25 percent of the gross income from these Federal lands are also vitally concerned.

We now need national legislation in the form of a RARE II bill for Montana that will provide sufficiency language, give relief to

the various natural resource industries and resolve as many roadless area questions as possible.

We need to to this in a forthright manner and, I think by doing this, we'll be sending a signal to the rest of the Nation that Montana has got its act together and that it's a good place to do business. I will refrain from any further statements and let the specifics be handled by members of the industry. Thank you very kindly.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Helding follows:]

Statement of Robert N. Helding, Attorney and Executive Director, Montana Wood Products Association

The Montana Wood Products Association welcomes this opportunity to comment on the Roadless Area Review Evaluation II and its effect on the timber industry in the state of Montana. My name is Robert N. Helding and I am an attorney and the Executive Director of the Montana Wood Products Association based here in Missoula. Our members constitute a major part of the Montana forest industry.

The issues involved in Montana's version of RARE II must be solved in a reasonable manner at the earliest opportunity in order to provide the maximum amount of help to the recovery of the Montana timber industry. The last several years have been devastating to the timber industry and many firms are now engaged in a struggle to regain a portion of the business that they once enjoyed. In a normal year, for example, Montana used to employ between 8,200 to 10,200 workers earning some 200 million dollars yearly in salaries. Last year, this sum was cut virtually in half and we had some of the highest unemployment records in history. Lincoln County, for example, suffered an unemployment rate exceeding 30 percent composed mainly of wood workers who had lost their jobs. This recent recession has been attributed to a large degree to problems with interest rates, but if we do not cure the long term aspect of a timber shortage, then we could very well witness a renewal recession in the timber industry in a few years due to lack of an adequate timber supply.

Montana now has some 3,073,818 acres in classified Wilderness. The RARE study encompasses 5,396,305 acres more of which it has been determined that 3,216,854 acres are classified as commercial forest acres (that is acreage capable of growing some 20 cubic feet of wood a year). These commercial acres have a sustained annual allowable cut of some 210.6 million board feet.

The Montana timber industry needs stability and it must know if it can develop in an orderly manner counting upon an adequate timber supply to accomplish its objectives. We have many plants that want to modernize and enlarge but they are uncertain because of the question of future timber supplies. With some 70 percent of the timber in Montana belonging to U.S. Government, it is imperative that the hassle over federal lands be settled as soon as possible. Uncle Sam, through its main agency, the United States Forest Service, owns some 61% of the commercial forest acreage or 9.8 million acres. An early resolution of RARE II therefore, is an absolute must if the Montana timber industry is to remain the third largest employer in the state of Montana.

In addition to the industry, the counties and the school systems, who are the recipients of 25% of the gross income from these federal acres are vitally concerned. We have witnessed the reduction in every one of Montana's 34 timber counties of their share of the 25% monies and we need therefore to resolve this problem for their sake.

Montana is a natural resource state and we maintain our economy by basically exporting into the nation's marketplace our natural resources, be it timber, minerals, food, etc. We now need national legislation in the form of a RARE II bill for Montana that will provide sufficiency language, give relief to the various natural resource industries, and resolve as many roadless area questions as possible. If we do this in a timely and forthright manner, then we will be sending a signal to the rest of the nation that Montana has got its act together and that it is a good place to do business. All our citizens will benefit from this type of political action. We can firm up our state's economic base, provide more and better jobs for the graduates of our education system, and provide an adequate tax base for the necessary functions of government. We can do all of this in line with good environmental practices if we take timely action and resolve the RARE II question in a reasonable manner. If we do not do these things, then we will have continued economic chaos within the state of Montana because our economic base is predicated on the orderly flow of natural resources from federal lands within the state. If this flow is interrupted for too long a time, then we will have economic problems as result. When we consider that RARE I and RARE II, coupled together, are some 17 years old, it behooves all of us to resolve the uncertainty that now clouds this issue so that all Montanans can go back to work, working for a better Montana.

Senator MELCHER. John McBride.

STATEMENT OF JOHN McBRIDE, SILVICULTURIST, ST. REGIS PAPER CO.

Mr. MCBRIDE. I'm John McBride, I'm a graduate forester with 31 years experience all in northwest Montana. I'm a silviculturist for St. Regis Paper Co. at Libby. I'm also industry's RARE II coordinator for Montana and I would really like to work myself out of a job. I don't want to see RARE III at all. There has been no shortage of studies of unroaded areas, and I think we have ample information to make the decisions that we need to make. There will be expansion on these by other people, I know. I do think that we do need both sufficiency language and wilderness designation at this time. We need the areas for jobs. The Forest Service needs the areas so that they can make a rational timber plan and carry it out. They need to know whether they can have areas or they cannot have them. We need sufficiency, we need wilderness, we need the thing now.

In the Kootenai, which is the most productive forest in Montana there are—there were 27 areas in RARE II. There are still 25. Two have been roaded and are small enough now that they are no longer in the question. The key to resolution, the key to agreement on the Kootenai is Scotchman Peaks. If the preservation community and industry do have agreement on this area, I think everything else will fall into line. There are three areas recommended for wilderness currently by the Forest Service: Cabinet Face West, Cabinet Face East (West), and Chippewa Creek. If there is a reasonable allocation of area on Scotchman, I think that there is no question that industry will go along with these. The other areas have generally been agreed to for release. There are a couple exceptions, but Maple Peak, Buckhorn Ridge, Northwest Peak, Trout Creek, Trout Creek is an exception. There will be an argument over Trout Creek, I'm sure. Cataract, Mount Henry, Grizzly Peak, Gold Hill, Berray Mountain, Government Mountain, Lone Cliff-Smeads, McNeeley Peak, McCay Creek. There will be an objection in McCay Creek. McCay Creek has mineral value. Ten Lakes, I think Ten Lakes is probably up in the air and that will be a separate—that's in the 393 area. Roderick Mountain, there may be objection. Cube Iron, Tuchuck and Thompson-Seton have game problems, grizzly bear, but I think they're resolvable. If the Pillick Ridge area of Scotchman, in particular, which has both timber and mineral value goes for nonwilderness, I think that there is a core area of a very minimum 25,000 acres, probably more, that is a wilderness potential in Scotchman. If this is satisfactorily resolved, I see no problem in the rest of the Kootenai, barring Trout Creek and McCray Creek, which there will be disagreement over. Other than those two, I think it's possible. That's all I need to say anyway.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McBride follows:]

27-608 O - 84 - 2

TESTIMONY

JOHN K. MCBRIDE

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Missoula, Montana
July 5, 1983

Senator Melcher,

I very much appreciate the opportunity to testify in the field hearings of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am a graduate forester who has had 26 years of field experience in forestry, all of this in Lincoln County, Montana, for the St. Regis Corporation. I have also had an additional five years experience as Governmental Manager and am the silviculturist for St. Regis Corporation at Libby. I am on several National Forest Products Association committees and am Industry's Rare II Coordinator for Montana. I'd like to work myself out of a job and eliminate Rare II as well as the threat of Rare III.

There has been no shortage of studies of the unroaded areas, and the studies have not been done hastily either. Some got studied as far back as the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. The directive for Rare I was effective in 1971, and Rare II started in June 1977. It's startling to sound like a phonograph with cracked record saying the same--saying the same--saying the same thing over and over. It is becoming intolerable to have unmanagement of land. Wilderness has a purpose, game land has a purpose, recreation land has a purpose, timber land has a purpose; Rare II land seems to have no purpose. Nero is said to have fiddled while Rome burned; we are fiddling while insects and rot destroy a valuable resource.

Let's get down to specifics on the Kootenai National Forest. The Kootenai, which is the most productive tree-growing forest in Montana, had 27 Rare II areas in it originally, (See Table I.) Now it still has 25 of these left as two areas have had roads built in the last five years. So the current Rare II areas have 291,000 acres. There are an additional 159,000 roadless acres that directives, as well as prudence, require a restudy to prevent intermidable legal tie-ups-- Unless Congress acts. The financial costs are available as 'best guesses,' and they run to $50 million. If the Kootenai can do this work for less than $1 per acre I'd be surprised, which leaves the Kootenai share of the waste at $450,000, or let's say, half a million. Do we have this to spare? How much have we wasted in terms of timber? How many jobs have gone down the drain? More important, what will we throw away in the future while we putter around not making decisions?

The key to agreement on Wilderness and development in the Kootenai is clearly Scotchman Peak (01662.) Here is an area that has a large acreage and positions sharply drawn. The preservationist stance is Alternative W. with 83,000 acres of Wilderness in Montana and Idaho. The Scotchman for Industry would prefer 25,000 acres of Wilderness in Montana and Idaho, but are not adamant on acres or boundaries (see attached map.) Hopefully there is a compromise position somewhere between these two views.

Let us say that we can reach some agreement that leaves both sides equally unhappy. I can see this only from one point of view, but it looks pretty good from there. If there <u>was</u> agreement on Scotchman, I can see no objection to the following going into Wilderness:

01670 Cabinet Face West
01681 Cabinet Face East (West)
01682 Chippewa Creek

Tentatively there seems to be little opposition for a number of allocations to nonroadless on these:

01665	Cataract	01684	Roderick Mtn.
01677	Galen Creek	01675	McNeeley Peak
01668	Gold Hill	01101	Maple Peak
01672	Berray Mtn.	01671	CAbinet Face East
01673	Government Mtn.	01674	Lone Cliff-Smeads
01667	Grizzly Peak	01678	E. F. K. Elk Creek

Two areas are in the Montana Wilderness Study Act and must be handled separately:

01666 Mt. Henry
01683 Ten Lakes

Two areas have been designated as roadless but not Wilderness, and we, atleast, are agreeable:

01661 Buckhorn Ridge
01663 Northwest Peak

No doubt there would be sharp disagreement in some areas. I would be agreeably surprised if agreement of any kind would be reached on:

01664 Trout Creek
01676 McCay Creek
01784 Cube Iron
01482 Tuchuck
01483 Thompson Seaton

So, IF agreement could be reached on Scotchman Peak, I feel that possibly 20 out of 25 areas might well be settled. If environmentalist and industry agree on land allocation, surely Congress could pass a bill that would provide for sufficiency and release of at least these agreed areas.

Of course the opposite side of the coin is that if an equitable agreement is not reached on Scotchman Peaks, then no Wilderness allocations could, or should, be supported by industry.

No doubt this would insure controversy on all 25 areas. So Scotchman holds the key, and we are continuing to discuss proposals with the environmental groups. If they are reasonable, we will be too. If they are not reasonable, I see no reason why industry should be.

Why do we pick up a smaller acreage in Scotchman than the other side? The answer is because of the combination of resources that parts of the area have or are believed to have. The Kootenai shows the Pillick Ridge portion of Scotchman to gross 18,800 acres. Of these, 10,800 is high timber potential, 1,300 acres is moderate potential, 1,300 is low potential, and only 4,500 acres is non-commercial. Further, Geological Survey Bulletin 1467 on page C22 says that part of this same area (Star Gulch) shows a higher potential than the presently operating ASARCO mine which employs some 200 people. On the Ross Point and Fatman additions to Scotchman 74% of this 7,220 acres is commercial forest, and the mineral potential is rated high. The nation needs these areas for production.

We need these areas for jobs. The Forest Service needs these areas for planned timber production OR needs to know if cannot use them. The Forest Service further needs to know if it must waste money on restudy or if it can proceed with rational forest planning to try to meet the nation's need for future timber. Sufficiency is needed badly and needed now.

The following figures are planimetered off a latest Forest Service map and total acres will probably not exactly agree with other Rare II acreages.

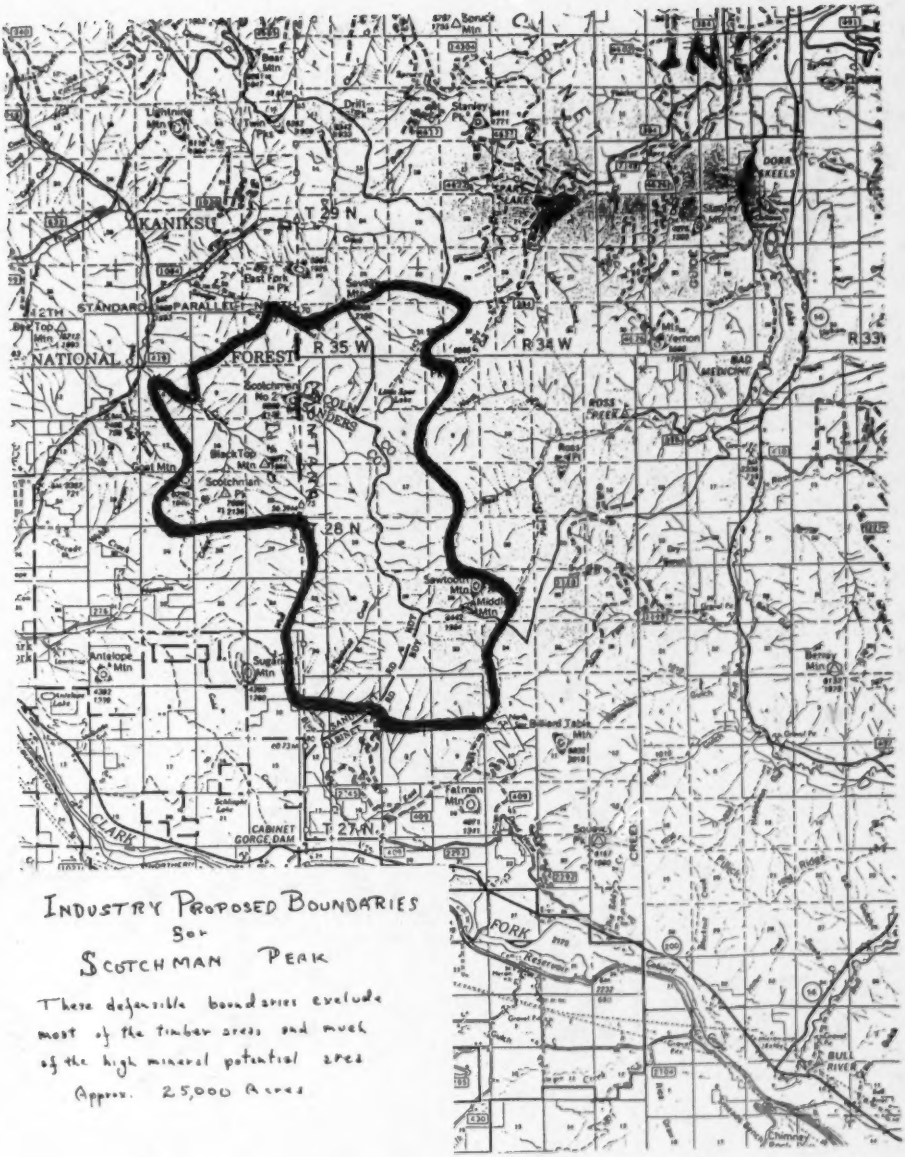
RARE II KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

RARE #	NAME	ACRES	POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL FOREST ACRES	%	POTENTIAL MINERAL	
01141	Maple Peak	900	0	0	Low all-Pt. In Idaho	
01661	Buckhorn Ridge	2900	300	10	Low all	"
01662	Scotchman Peaks	50400 Kootenai only	22800	45	High 3600 A.	"
01663	Northwest Peak	8800	900	10	Low all	"
01664	Trout Creek	32600	24500	75	High 300A	"
01665	Cataract	18100	7100	39	High 400A	Koot. and Lolo
01666	Mt. Henry	21000	18000	86	Low All	
01667	Grizzly Peak	5900	4900	83	"	
01668	Gold Hill	17300	15900	92	"	
01670	Cabinet Face West	9600	5100	53	"	
01671	Cabinet Face East	18000	1800	10	High 2700A	
01672	Berray Mtn.	8200	3400	41	Low all	
01673	Government Mtn.	8600	5600	65	"	
01674	Lone Cliff-Smeads	14200	10600	75	High 400A	
01675	McNeeley Peak	8800	6400	73	Low All	
01676	McKay Creek	11700	5600	48	High 1000A	
01677	Galena Creek	15000	7400	49	High 500A	
01678	E. Fork Elk Creek	6400	5600	88	Low ALL	
01681	Cabinet Face E. (W.)	1100	700	64	"	
01682	Chippewa Creek	1000	1000	100	"	
01683	Ten Lakes	33900	13700	40	"	
01684	Roderick Mtn.	1600	700	44	"	
01784	Cube Iron	400	200	50	"	Koot. and Lolo
01482	Tuchuck	2300	--	0	"	"
01483	Thompson Seaton	5700	600	11	"	"
		304400	162200	53%		

RARE II AREAS THAT ARE NOW TOO SMALL DUE TO ENTRIES

01509 Grubb Mtn. Kootenai and Flathead is now too small and is out.

01782 McGregor--Thompson (Kootenai and Lolo) is now too small on the Kootenai, though still viable on the Lolo.



INDUSTRY PROPOSED BOUNDARIES
for
SCOTCHMAN PEAK

These defensible boundaries exclude most of the timber areas and much of the high mineral potential area

Approx. 25,000 Acres

STATEMENT OF JAMES BENTLEY, FOREST LANDS MANAGER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPERATION, CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORP.

Mr. BENTLEY. My name is Jim Bentley. I'm the forest lands manger for Champion Rocky Mountain operation, headquartered in Milltown, Mont.

We commend all of you for holding these hearings addressing the wilderness. The issue has gone on too long and it's time to equitably resolve it. There hearings could provide the push needed to get this time-consuming resource wasting issue behind us. California court decision has caused a terrible waste of time and effort and money for everyone. It would be in Montana's best interests if issues involved could be resolved without too much further delay.

Champion has an interest in the timber sale programs for most of the national forests in Montana. From the Lolo, the Flathead, the Bitterroot, timber goes directly to our mills. Timber from other forests, such as the Gallatin, Lewis and Clark goes to mills of other companies. But Champion buys their waste material which becomes a raw material for a pulp mill at Frenchtown. Thus, Champion is very much interested in maintaining adequate timber programs in all national forests in Montana.

As we address the wilderness stalemate, the first priority is to pass sufficiency and release language. Areas designated by Forest Service in the RARE II process for nonwilderness must be made available for that purpose.

Champion supports the industry RARE II position, with minor changes of 4 years ago. However, we are presently having discussions with other user groups, including wilderness organizations, to attempt to delineate boundaries of wilderness areas that will be acceptable to all parties involved. This is a difficult process and if it is to be successful, will require conciliatory actions by all groups. Little might come of these negotiations. On the other hand, it could be the beginning of much better and much needed cooperation between various user groups.

Prompt resolution of the wilderness issue in Montana is important to Champion and we stand willing to assist this committee in reaching a final solution. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our views. I have attached an index or, excuse me, an appendix that discusses RARE II areas near Champion mills and the Lolo Forest and, also, I might add that some of the meetings that we have had with the wilderness groups and others, we have come to pretty good resolution of the Monture Creek area, which is a part of 1485 up near Seeley Lake and others will be talking about that. As I stated, I have optimism that perhaps more can be done in this area. That's all I have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bentley follows:]

Prepared Statement of James E. Bentley, Champion International Corp., on the U.S. Forest Service Wilderness and Nonwilderness Recommendations of the Lolo, Flathead, Kootenai, and Bitterroot National Forests

MY NAME IS JIM BENTLEY. I AM THE FOREST LANDS MANAGER FOR CHAMPION'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPERATION, HEADQUARTERED IN MILLTOWN, MONTANA.

WE COMMEND YOU FOR HOLDING THESE HEARINGS TO ADDRESS THE WILDERNESS ISSUE IN MONTANA. THE ISSUE HAS GONE ON TOO LONG AND IT IS TIME TO EQUITABLY RESOLVE IT. THESE HEARINGS COULD PROVIDE THE PUSH NEEDED TO GET THIS TIME CONSUMING, RESOURCE WASTING ISSUE BEHIND US. THE CALIFORNIA COURT DECISION HAS CAUSED A TERRIBLE WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT AND MONEY FOR EVERYONE. IT WOULD BE IN MONTANA'S BEST INTEREST IF THE ISSUES INVOLVED COULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT TOO MUCH FURTHER DELAY.

CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION MANAGES 683,000 ACRES OF TIMBERLANDS IN WESTERN MONTANA AND OPERATES A TOTAL OF 5 MILLS AND PLANTS LOCATED IN SILVER CITY, BONNER, MISSOULA, FRENCHTOWN, AND CONNER, MONTANA. OUR MILLS AND PLANTS ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MONTANA. THEY EMPLOYED 2,278 PEOPLE IN 1982 AND HAVE AN ANNUAL PAYROLL OF OVER $58,000,000. THESE NUMBERS DO NOT INCLUDE THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS WHO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE RUNNING OF THESE MILLS, AND WHOSE JOBS ARE DEPENDENT ON THE OPERATION OF THESE MILLS, BUT WHO ARE NOT ON CHAMPION'S PAYROLL.

OUR MONTANA FACILITIES USE 275 MILLION BOARD FEET OF TIMBER ANNUALLY. THIS IS IN THE FORM OF LOGS. IN ADDITION, CHAMPION PURCHASES CHIPS, SAWDUST, AND HOGFUEL FROM OTHER MILLS FOR USE IN CHAMPION'S 1,900 TON PER DAY PULP MILL AT FRENCHTOWN.

HISTORICALLY, SIXTY PERCENT OF THE TIMBER FOR CHAMPION'S MILLS HAS COME FROM COMPANY LANDS. WE HAVE BEEN CUTTING OUR OLD, SLOW-GROWING STANDS AND REPLACING THEM WITH NEW FASTER GROWING TREES WHICH WE WILL NEED IN THE FUTURE. IT TAKES TIME FOR TREES TO GROW TO SAWTIMBER SIZE AND WE WILL REACH A PERIOD IN THE GROWING CYCLE IN THE NEXT DECADE WHEN WE WILL BE SEEKING ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FROM LANDS OTHER THAN CHAMPION'S. AT THAT TIME WE ANTICIPATE SUPPLYING FORTY PERCENT OF OUR WOOD NEEDS FROM OUR OWN LANDS AND WILL HAVE TO BUY SIXTY PERCENT FROM OTHER SOURCES. THUS, THE ISSUE OF HOW MUCH LAND IS TIED UP IN WILDERNESS OR WILDERNESS DISPUTE IS OF CONCERN TO OUR COMPANY.

FORTUNATELY, MONTANA IS A BIG STATE BLESSED WITH AMPLE RESOURCES AND THERE CAN BE LANDS DEDICATED FOR BOTH WILDERNESS AND NONWILDERNESS USE. NATIONAL FORESTS IN MONTANA CONTAIN 64.7 BILLION BOARD FEET OF TIMBER AND HAVE AN ANNUAL GROWTH OF AT LEAST 1.5 BILLION BOARD FEET.

CHAMPION HAS AN INTEREST IN THE TIMBER SALE PROGRAMS FOR MOST OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN MONTANA. FROM THE LOLO, THE FLATHEAD, THE BITTERROOT, AND THE KOOTENAI, TIMBER GOES DIRECTLY TO OUR MILLS. TIMBER FROM FORESTS SUCH AS THE GALLATIN AND THE LEWIS & CLARK GOES TO MILLS OF OTHER COMPANIES; BUT CHAMPION BUYS THEIR WASTE MATERIAL WHICH BECOMES A RAW MATERIAL FOR THE PULP

MILL AT FRENCHTOWN. THUS, CHAMPION IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING ADEQUATE TIMBER PROGRAMS IN ALL NATIONAL FORESTS IN MONTANA.

AS WE ADDRESS THE WILDERNESS STALEMATE, THE FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PASS SUFFICIENCY AND RELEASE LANGUAGE. THE AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE FOREST SERVICE IN THE RARE II PROCESS FOR NONWILDERNESS USE MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

CHAMPION SUPPORTS THE INDUSTRY RARE II POSITION, WITH MINOR CHANGES OF FOUR YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, WE ARE PRESENTLY HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER USER GROUPS, INCLUDING WILDERNESS ORGANIZATIONS, TO ATTEMPT TO DELINEATE BOUNDARIES OF WILDERNESS AREAS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. THIS IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS AND IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL WILL REQUIRE CONCILLATORY ACTIONS BY ALL GROUPS. LITTLE MIGHT COME FROM THESE NEGOTIATIONS - ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF MUCH BETTER AND MUCH NEEDED COOPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS USER GROUPS.

PROMP RESOLUTION OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE IN MONTANA IS IMPORTANT TO CHAMPION AND WE STAND WILLING TO ASSIST THIS COMMITTEE IN REACHING A FINAL SOLUTION. WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE OUR VIEWS.

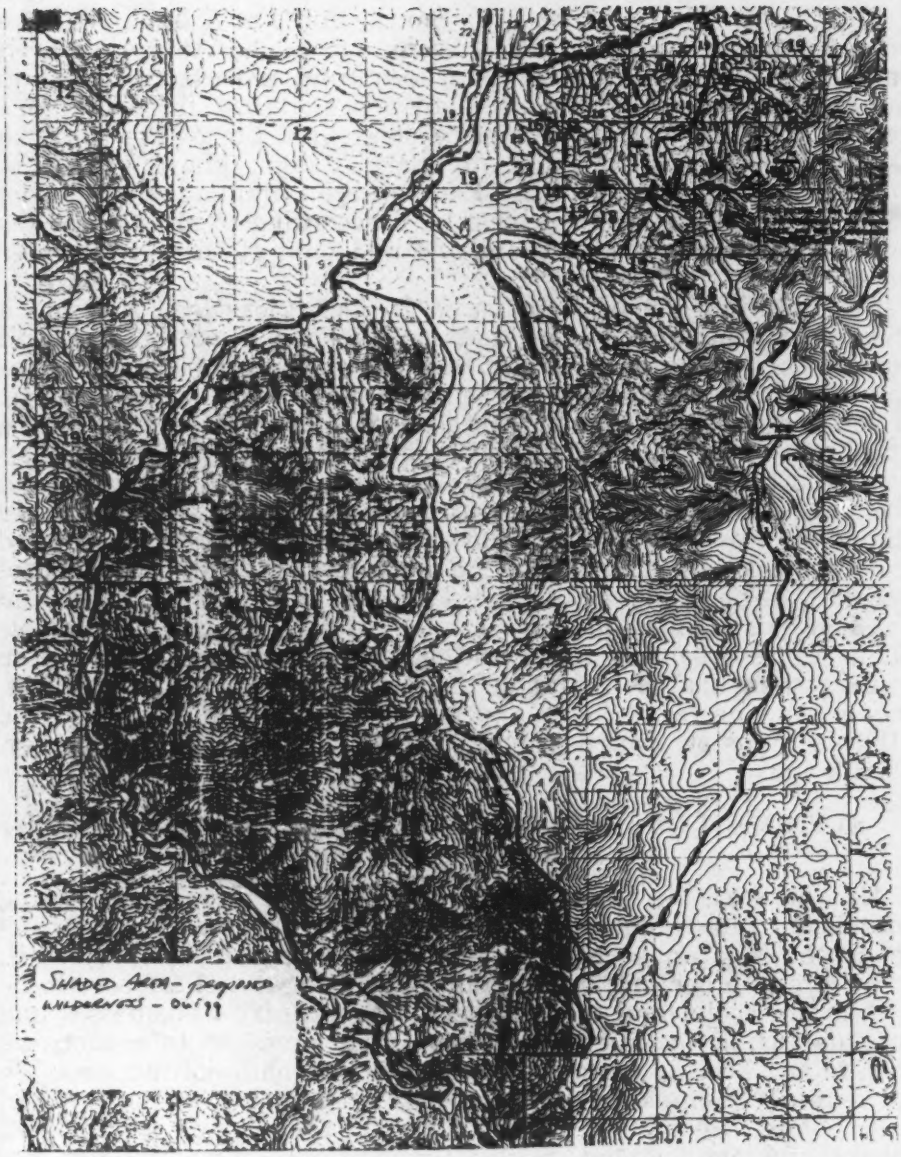
APPENDIX I

CHAMPION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LOLO FOREST NONWILDERNESS RARE II AREAS

AREA	NUMBER	ACRES	CHAMPION AGREES WITH FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FOLLOWING RARE II AREAS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)
Burdette	1-803	15,400	1. The majority of acres are classified excellent elk and deer winter range where vegetation manipulation may be necessary to maintain habitat. 2. A portion of the area is suitable for timber management for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production. 3. Contains 100 acres of nonfederal lands.	1.2
Garden Point	1-809	6,500	1. The majority of acres are classified as suitable for timber production. Management provides for healthy stands of timber, optimizing timber growing potential and sustaining timber production. 2. The area's small size precludes it from wilderness.	.6
Stark Mountain	1-800	10,400	1. A large portion of acres are classified as suitable for timber production for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production. 2. Portions are classified as winter range suitable for timber production with timber harvest employed to improve big game winter range. 3. Area contains 400 acres of non federal ownership.	1.1
Lolo Creek Mill Creek	Q1-805 C1-805	13,060 1,840	1. Area contains 1,500 acres of non federal ownership that has been roaded. 2. The northern portion contains lands suitable for timber production with a visual quality objective. 3. The majority of the area is classified as unsuitable for timber production at present, thus precluding it from any further development.	Lolo Creek Q .9 Mill Creek C .4

AREA	NUMBER	ACRES	CHAMPION AGREES WITH FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FOLLOWING RARE II AREAS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:		POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)
Stony Mountain	1-808		1. Parcel contains land classified suitable for timber management for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production. 2. A portion of the area is classified as unsuitable for timber production at present, thus precluding it from any further development. 3. A small portion is classified as land with high visual sensitivity, suitable for timber production with a visual quality objective. 4. A large portion is classified as unsuitable for timber production at present thus precluding it from any further development. 5. Areas that exhibit wilderness values will be protected in the revised draft Lolo Forest Plan. These areas will be managed for dispersed roadless recreation.		
Lolo NF		33,120		Lolo NF	1.6
Deerlodge NF		22,400		Deerlodge NF	1.4
Bitterroot NF		49,800		Bitterroot NF	1.8
Welcome Creek	1-806	1,100	1. This parcel contains land suitable for timber production on a sustained yield and also areas that require vegetation manipulation to improve wildlife habitat.		.0
Quigg	A1-807		1. Majority of this area is classified as suitable for timber management for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production. 2. The second largest classification is big game winter range with timber harvest employed to improve or maintain big game winter range.		
Lolo NF		30,550		Lolo NF	1.3
Deerlodge NF		15,360		Deerlodge NF	1.1
Silver King	1-424		1. Contains 400 acres of non federal lands. 2. Majority of this area is classified as suitable for timber management for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production. 3. A large portion is classified as big game winter range with timber harvest employed to improve or maintain big game winter range.		
Lolo NF		13,100		Lolo NF	1.4
Deerlodge NF		44,970		Deerlodge NF	3.4

AREA	NUMBER	ACRES	CHAMPION AGREES WITH FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FOLLOWING RARE II AREAS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)
Quigg	Q1-807	60,050	1. Champion agrees that portions of Quigg are suitable for wilderness, however, wilderness boundaries should be located to exclude productive timber sites. Enclosed is a map of our proposed boundary (29,500-W, 30,050-NW).	1.3


SHADED AREA - proposed
WILDERNESS - 04/99

STATEMENT OF T. T. SMITH, MINER, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. SMITH. My name is T. T. Smith, and I'm a miner. I have been a miner all my life and it seems to me that there has been entirely not enough attention paid to mining and what happens to mining when all these wilderness areas are created. In fact, when I go out anymore to look at a piece of ground, I'm a little bit like Columbus. When I start out up there, I don't know where I'm going; when I get there, I don't know where I am; and when I come back, I don't know where I have been according to all of these ins and outs and ins and outs and ins and outs of these wilderness areas.

Now, mining is a basic industry. In fact, there isn't a thing in this room that you look at that hasn't some direct—that hasn't come from mining of some sort or another. And if we stop or curtail the mining of this country, this country is on the ragged edge. If you don't believe it, just think about it a little. Regardless of this vociferous minority mining has to be given first priority. Otherwise, you have national stoppage. But what do you have to offer in the place of all this mineral and timber land that's locked up in the wilderness? What do you have to offer? What have you offered that will take the place of it? I don't know and there are a lot of people that don't agree with me, I suppose, but I have a mine and lived in this country in the West for all my life. I think that we ought to reverse this thing and pay entirely more attention to mining than has been paid in the past because, as I said before, you are on the ragged edge, you are on the downhill slide, because all this industry, you name it, basically, it all comes to money. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JERRY OKONSKI, INDEPENDENT LOGGING CONTRACTOR, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. OKONSKI. My name is Jerry Okonski, an independent logging contractor, Libby, Mont. This is our fourth year of operation. I commend the Montana delegation for attempting to resolve RARE II.

We are approaching in our country's history what appears to be a different social and economic era. Our country's businesses and manufacturing facilities are under great pressure to modernize, update and become more competitive in international markets. We have more unemployment now, even in a rising economy, than ever before. We have got to provide our people with worthwhile, meaningful employment. Stiffer competition—internationally, nationally, and locally—lower profit margins, unsteady markets and higher unemployment and all the other related factors must surely be giving us a very important signal. We must get back on track.

RARE II is just a small facet of this problem, but it must be approached with an eye toward solving some of these basic "bread and butter" problems. Studying and restudying RARE is an effective way to buy time as well as use up tax dollars that could better be spent elsewhere. Our country cannot afford this tactic. We must, as we said, with RARE I, RARE II, and now make our decision now.

There are too many other national problems of higher priority that must be resolved. Specifically, the RARE II study conducted

by the Forest Service appeared to be conducted in good faith using state-of-the-art analysis. Obviously, we do not all agree with their recommendations. Lincoln and Sanders County residents, as well as others surrounding the Kootenai Forest, are heavily dependent upon a healthy timber supply, minerals, and varied recreational opportunities.

For myself and the people I represent and have talked to, generally agree with the Forest Service recommendations. Briefly, the Scotchman Peak area is recommended for wilderness, however, the lower reaches extending to a main highway below do not, in my mind, represent wilderness but rather opportunities for multiple use management.

Areas such as the Northwest Peaks and Ten Lake areas have been used for many years by motorized recreationists and the Forest Service should continue management for this use. The Mount Henry area does not offer much of a wilderness area experience, however, some smaller areas within could be managed for recreational use.

The remaining areas identified do not have sufficient wilderness value, in my opinion, in size or uniqueness and would be better managed for multiple use benefiting a wider range of users. I thank you for the opportunity to present my opinions to the committee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Okonski follows:]

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PREPARED STATEMENT OF JERRY OKONSKI, INDEPENDENT LOGGING CONTRACTOR, LIBBY, MONT.

I commend the committee for attempting to resolve "RARE II"

We are approaching in our country today what appears to be a different social and economic era. Our country's business & manufacturing facilities are under great pressure to modernize, update, and become more competitive in international markets. We have more unemployment now, even in a rising economy, than ever before. We've got to provide our people with worthwhile meaningful employment. Stiffer competition - internationally, nationally, and locally - lower profit margins, unsteady markets, higher unemployment, and all the other related factors must surely be giving us a very important signal. We must get back on track.

RARE II is just a small facet of this problem. But it must be approached with an eye toward solving some of these basic "bread and butter" problems. Studying and restudying RARE is an effective way to buy time as well as use up tax dollars that could be better spent elsewhere. Our country cannot afford this tactic. We must as we have said w/ RARE I, RARE II, and now - make our decision Now.

There are too many other national problems of higher priority that must be resolved.

Specifically, the RARE II study conducted by the US Forest Service appeared to be conducted in good faith using state of the art analysis. Obviously, We all do not agree with their recommendations. Lincoln and Sanders County residents as well as others surrounding the Kootenai Forest are heavily dependent upon a healthy timber supply, minerals, and varied recreational opportunities.

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Areas such as the Northwest Peaks and Ten Lakes areas have been used for many years by motorized recreationists and ~~should be~~ the USFS should continue management for this use. The Mt Henry area does not offer much

of a wilderness experience however some smaller ~~The boundary of wilderness~~ areas within could be managed for recreational use. The remaining area identified do not have sufficient wilderness value in any respect and would be better managed for multiple use - benefiting a wider range of users. I thank you for the opportunity to present my opinion to the committee.

I Appendix

Specific recommendations -

Area.

I-662 Scotchman Peaks - only those areas recommended for wilderness by USFS should be placed in wilderness. The lower portions along Pollock Ridge do not represent wilderness, but multiple use opportunities (ie Daytube, timber mgmt, motorized recreation, mineral exploration, etc)

I-681(C) These are recommended additions to
I-670(c) The existing Cabinet state wilderness.
I-682 We can agree with these additions.
I-676(B)

I-663 Northwest Peaks
I-683 Ten Lakes.
These areas have been used for many years by motorized recreationists and should be managed in the future this way.

I-666 Mt Henry
This area is not of wilderness quality although it does have portions that could be managed for recreation. The majority of the area should

be managed for timber production

All other areas designated for RARE II on the Kootenai National Front are not of sufficient size or uniqueness to be added to the Wilderness System. They would better serve the need of this nation as multiple use areas.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all, very much. Second panel.

STATEMENT OF DORIS MILNER, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Ms. MILNER. I am Doris Milner from Hamilton, Mont., and I am speaking today as the Montana Wilderness Association Liaison between the Association and the Bitterroot National Forest. I lived in the Bitterroot for 32 years during which time I have been in close association with the forest personnel. Forest planning and resource management is of vital importance to many who live in the Bitterroot since the forest surrounds us on three sides.

The introduction of a Montana Omnibus Wilderness bill is most timely. We are all weary of the interminable struggle and controversy over classification, and hope that we are seeing the end to this. Alternative W, which is in the briefing book which I have presented to you, which has been drawn up by the conservation community contains the areas which we have agreed should be preserved. The exceptions, of course, are those areas contained in the Montana Wilderness Study Act which will come later. Over the years, these areas have been thoroughly scrutinized through the forest planning processes and the RARE evaluations. Now all the groups should be able to reach consensus without too much disagreement.

The two major wild areas remaining in the Bitterroot are the Sapphire and Blue Joint, however, they are included in the Montana Wilderness Study Act and will not be recommended here.

There are three Bitterroot Forest listings in Alternative W: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Anaconda-Pintlar Addition, and Stony Mountain. The additions to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are primarily west side canyons that originate in the wilderness. Inclusion will give much better protection to their recreation resources and to the wildlife and water resources. Some 48,200 acres are involved. The additions to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness are quite small, totaling some 1,800 acres. Both additions were recommended for wilderness classification by the Forest Service.

Stony Mountain area was not recommended by the Forest Service, but MWA feels that this is a mistake and is recommending for classification. I would give a brief rundown but I think the time is too limited here and it is included in your briefing book. The area, however, I will outline briefly. It lies on the Sapphire Divide. It's

15 miles from the Skalkaho Road on the south to the vicinity of Sawmill Saddle on the north. The Stony Mountain is roughly 98,000 acres in size and lies on three forests: the Lolo, the Deerlodge, and the Bitterroot. It is probably the best and most extensive elk summer habitat on the Bitterroot National Forest and that occurs in the Upper Daly/Burnt Fork Basin. Little, if any, deer or elk winter range is present, but the area does have year-round habitat for moose.

Black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, fisher, marten, wolverine, elk, moose, et cetera, all call the area home.

On the matter of release language in a Montana Omnibus Wilderness Bill we are strongly opposed to hard release language that closes the door forever on the consideration of a wild area for wilderness classification. This essentially removes options for future generation and seems to violate the intent of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act as it removes a management option from some lands. I appreciate the opportunity to speak for the Bitterroot areas.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Milner follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DORIS MILNER, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

I am Doris Milner from Hamilton, Mt. and I am speaking today as the Montana Wilderness Assocation liaison between the Association and the Bitter Root National Forest. I have lived in the Bitter Root Valley for 32 years during which time I have been in close association with the forest personnel. Forest planning and resource management is of vital importance to many who live in the Bitter Root since the forest surrounds us on three sides. Preservation of wild lands will have a long term influence on the stability and beauty of the Valley. Fishing, hunting, camping, etc., all associated with wilderness, will have an insurance policy, as it were, for survival.

The introduction of a Montana Omnibus Wilderness bill is most timely. We are all weary of the interminable struggle and controversy over classification and hope that we are seeing the end to this. Alternative "W" which has been drawn up by the conservation community contains the areas which we have agreed should be preserved. The exceptions, of course, are those areas contained in the Montana Wilderness Study Act. Over the years, these areas have been thoroughly scrutinized through the forest planning processes, and the RARE evaluations. Now all the groups should be able to reach a concensus with out too much disagreement.

The two major wild areas remaining on the Bitter Root are the Sapphire and Blue Joint. However, they are included in the NWS Act and will not be recommended here.

There are three Bitter Root Forest listings in Alternative "W"; Selway-Bitter Root Wilderness Additions, Anaconda-Pintlar Additions, and Stony Mountain. The additions to the Selway-Bitter Root Wilderness are primarily west side canyons which originate in the wilderness. Inclusion will give much better protection to their recreation resources and to the wildlife and water resources. Some 48,200 acres are involved. The additions to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness are quite small, totaling some 1800 acres. Both additions were recommended for wilderness classification by the Forest Service.

Stony Mountain area was not recommended by the Forest Service but MWA feels the this was a mistake and is recommending it for classification. I will give a brief rundown but time will not allow at this hearing for a detailed description. The Stony Mountain is some 98,000 acres in size. It straddles the Sapphire Divide for approximately 15 miles from the Skalkaho Highway on the south to the vicinty of Sawmill Saddle on the north. The Divide and several lateral ridges are at an elevation of about 8000 ft. The area has been penetrated by two roads, the Gird Point/Vermiculite Rd. and the Willow/Signal/Burnt Fk. Rd. Topography is generally steep and rugged except for about 10,000 acres on the Lolo Forest where terrain is more gentle and rolling. Major drainages include the headwaters of the Burnt Fork of the Bitter Root River, Daly Creek, and practically the entire length of Stony, Lyman, and Hutsimpillar Creeks. Higher elevations under the major ridges are subalpine environments with considerable evidence of past alpine glaciation.

Probably the best and most extensive elk summer habitat on the Bitter Root National Forest occurs in the Upper Daly/Burnt Fork basin. Lilanguage which closes the door forever on the consideration of a wild area for wilderness classification. This essentially removes options for future generations and seems to violate the intent of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act as it removes a management option from some lands. MWA supports "soft" release which will allow reconsideration after the present 15 year Forest Planning cycle.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak for Bitter Root areas and I sincerely hope that combined efforts will produce a good sound wilderness bill.

STATEMENT OF DALE HARRIS, GREAT BURN STUDY GROUP

Mr. HARRIS. Senator Melcher, my name is Dale Harris and I'm from Missoula, Mont. I'm here representing myself and the Great Burn study group. I'm here to address the Great Burn only, which is in Lolo National Forest and the Clearwater National Forest. The Great Burn study group was created by myself and others in 1971 to work with the Forest Service on RARE I. In 1973, we submitted to the Forest Service the finding of our study. Our report urged the Forest Service to further consider the area for wilderness designation. I would like to include a copy of that report in the record of this hearing.

A few years went by and the administration changed. In the spring of 1977, news came from Washington that the Forest Service was going to do the roadless inventory all over again. That was RARE II. Two years later, the Forest Service recommended instant wilderness for the Great Burn. Incidentally, in 1973 they had recommended that as a new study area. However, in last minute local and regional deliberations, the Forest Service deleted some 1,400 acres in Montana. By then, we, the Great Burn study group, was convinced that the area should be classified as wilderness and we publicly supported the Forest Service recommendation. We did differ with the agency's recommendation to delete the Irish Basin, Cache Creek exclusion. We did our own analysis of the potential mineral value of the exclusions and we hired two consultants to evaluate the timber tradeoffs. Our findings are included in this report, which I would like to submit for your consideration. We concluded that the Forest Service did not provide sufficient evidence or promise of mineralization or timber potential to warrant the exclusions.

I would also like to submit our wilderness proposal, two fact sheets and a map of the area. This material speaks to the wilderness and other values found in the Great Burn. One characteristic that's common to the entire area, the effect of the 1910 fire, which swept through most of the Great Burn leaving barren slopes that today resemble subalpine tundra. The natural plant and animal communities which have evolved relatively undisturbed during the past 73 years render the area particularly valuable for wildland education, especially considering its proximity to the university here in Missoula.

In closing, the Great Burn study group would like to again go on record as supporting the Forest Service RARE II Great Burn wilderness recommendations. That's for the entire area and in addition, in Montana alone, that would be 77,900 acres. We are in support of that recommendation. In addition, we recommend that you include the Montana deletions that were originally part of the pro-

posed wilderness area. The Great Burn study group also supports the statewide conservation bill. I request that this testimony and my written submittals be included in the hearing record, thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Harris follows:]

GREAT BURN STUDY GROUP

July 4, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands & Reserved Water Subcommittee
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Melcher:
Other Members of the Montana Congressional Delegation:

I am Dale R. Harris of Missoula, Montana. Currently, I am a full partner in a locally owned computer consulting firm and a member of the Missoula City Zoning Commission and the Missoula City-County Planning Board.

I am here today representing myself and the Great Burn Study Group. The Great Burn Study Group was created by myself and others in 1971. Our purpose was to respond to the need to provide factual and unbiased information and recommendations regarding the Great Burn to the Forest Service's roadless inventory process called RARE I. After a year of intensive work, we submitted to the Forest Service the findings of our study. This report included pages and pages of recommendations and supportive analysis. Our report urged the Forest Service to further consider the area for wilderness designation. I would like to include a copy of that report in record of this hearing.

After many public involvement meetings (Forest Service called them listening sessions), it was obvious to the agency that there was significant public support for wilderness study of the Great Burn. In addition to strong public support, the Forest Service assigned the Great Burn a Wilderness Quality Index rating of 171, one of the highest ratings given to any area in the nation. Besides these two considerations, there was also a great deal of inhouse Forest Service support. So in 1973, the Forest Service selected the Great Burn as a "Wilderness Study Area."

A few years went by and administrations changed. In the spring of 1977, news came from Washington that the Forest Service was going to do the roadless inventory all over again. RARE II. Two years later, the Forest Service recommended instant wilderness for the Great Burn (Entire area, 177,900 acres - Montana portion only, 77,700 acres). However, in last minute local and regional deliberations, the Forest Service deleted some 14,000 acres in Montana and 51,300 in Idaho.

534 South Fifth West, Missoula, Montana 59801

By then, the Great Burn Study Group was convinced that the area should be classified as wilderness and we publicly supported the Forest Service recommendation. We did differ with the agencies' recommendation to delete the Irish Basin/Cache Creek exclusion. We did our own analysis of the potential mineral values of the exculsions and we hired two consultants, (one who had worked on contract for Champion and the other a close colleaque of Pfister) to evaluate the timber trade-offs. Our findings are included in this report, which I would like to submit for your consideration. We concluded that the Forest Service did not provide sufficient evidence or promise of mineralization or timber potential to warrant the exclusions.

I'd also like to submit our wilderness proposal, two fact sheets and a map of the area. This material speaks to the wilderness and other values found in the Great Burn. One characteristic is common to the entire area: the effect of the "Great Burn", which swept through most of area, leaving barren slopes that today resemble subalpine tundra. The natural plant and animal communities which have evolved relatively undisturbed during the past 73 years render the area particularly valuable for wildland education, especially considering it's proximity to University here in Missoula.

In closing, the Great Burn Study Group would like to again go on record as supporting the Forest Service RARE II Great Burn wilderness recommendations (Montana - 77,900 acres) and in addition we recommend that you include the Montana deletions that were originally part of the proposed wilderness area.

Senator Melcher, members of the delegation, I respectfully urge you to introduce and support legislation that would include the Great Burn Wilderness Area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I request that this testimony and my written submittals be included in the hearing record. Thank you.

GREAT BURN STUDY GROUP'S

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSE TO

THE USDA--FOREST SERVICE RARE II RECOMMENDED

GREAT BURN (HOODOO) DELETIONS IN MONTANA

1) Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS Rare II Deletion Based on Mineral Potential.

2) Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS Rare II Deletions Based on Timber Trade-offs.

February, 1979

Note: Three significant segments have been recommended for deletion from the Idaho side of the Great Burn. These deletions are being addressed by Idaho citizens concerned about the Great Burn. These deletions are not addressed in this report.

Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS RARE II Deletions Based on Mineral Potential

In its final RARE II recommendation, the Department of Agriculture deleted about 7,000 acres of the Great Burn because of proven mineral potential. (See southern-most E-1301 on the enclosed map.) We do not believe there is sufficient evidence or promise of mineralization to warrant this exclusion. The evidence is as follows:

1. "Proven," as used by the Forest Service in their evaluation, only means there is potential for mineralization. It does not indicate that valuable minerals are present. Indeed, the evaluation represented only "an overview of the liklihood that valuable mineral resources occur or may be found..." [1] (Emphasis added.)

2. This overview was completed with remarkable speed. Because of time constraints, Forest Service geologists had only a little more than 2 hours to complete the initial mineral evaluation, including: acquiring and preparing maps; researching geologic, structural, and minerals data; assigning a potential classification; preparing a report; typing the report; and editing, proofing, and collating the final product. [2] After this, the only additional work done was to reinterpret the information to assign a numerical rating for mineral potential.

3. Little data exists for the Forest Service to use in evaluating the Great Burn's mineral potential. In fact, their report began with this sentence: "Published geologic and structural data on 1-301 is lacking." [3] No field studies have been conducted by the Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, or any other agency or industry to determine the area's geology. In fact, the Forest Service admits it "doesn't know what the area's geology is." [4]

4. The only evidence of minerals in the deleted area is as follows:

   a. The Forest Service evaluation stated that "complex northwest trending structures may extend southward into the area." [5] (Emphasis added.)

   b. A fluorite mine adjacent to E-1301 was active in the late 1950's--but it was mined out in 2 years and employed only 4 people. [6]

c. There are two mining claims in the area-- but there is no active development of either. Further, there are no pending applications for patents or applications to engage in future exploration or development operations. Thousands of claims have been filed throughout the Forest Service Northern Region: none is significant unless an economic deposit is developed. In fact, the lack of exploration and development on these claims when some mineral showings are known to exist only fortifies our belief that no valuable minerals are present, but only a mineral hope occasioned by a mine adjacent to the area which produced some fluorspar in the 1950's.

5. Wilderness designation of this area would not prohibit mineral-related activities. The Wilderness Act specified that "nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activities for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources.."8/ The Act gave individuals and industry 19 years-- until January of 1984-- to patent claims. Furthermor, the Act specified that development and exploration (including possible use of motorized equipment and construction of necessary facilities) would be permitted in wilderness on any claims patented by December 31,1983. 9/

This section was included in the Act to address exactly the situation we are now facing. Congress did not intend that areas be excluded from wilderness designation on the grounds of potential mineral values; it intended that such areas be given wilderness protection until substantial mineral values are proven, at which time exploration and development would still be allowed.

Footnotes

1. "Central Zone RARE II Minerals Evaluation," section on Explination of Criteria Used for Mineral Potential Delineations, U.S.D.A.-Forest Service, Northern Region, Missoula, Montana, Nov. 29, 1977, (hereafter refered to as "Minerals Evaluation").

2. "Minerals Evaluation," introductory section.

3. "Minerals Evaluation," section on Hoodoo Roadless Area.

4. Conversation with a Forest Service geologist, Missoula, Mt., Jan. 26, 1979.

5. "Minerals Evaluation," section on Hoodoo Roadless Area.

6. Uuno M. Sahinen, "Fluorspar Deposits in Montana," Montana Bureau of Mines, Bul. 28, April, 1962, p.10.

7. "Minerals Evaluation," section on Explination of Criteria Used for Mineral Potential Delineations.

8. "Wilderness Act," Public Law 88-577, 88th Congress, S.4, Sept. 3, 1964, Sec. 4(d)(2).

9. "Wilderness Act," Sec. 4(d)(3).

Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS RARE II Deletions Based on Timber Trade-offs

In its final RARE II recommendation, the Department of Agriculture deleted approximately 7,000 acres of the Great Burn from wilderness on the grounds of timber trade-offs. (See the 3 northern-most E-1301 segments on the enclosed map.) The Great Burn Study Group conducted it's own silvicultural and economic analyses of the potential for timber management of these 3 segments; our findings are described below.

1. The Department of Agriculture has recommended exclusion of land without the appropriate physical, biological, and economic analyses. Without such analyses, the RARE II recommendation may exclude lands which cannot be managed in accordance with legislation governing National Forest management.

The 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires the Forest Service to "identify lands which are not suited for timber production considering physical, economic, and other pertinent factors" and to exclude such lands from the timber base. To do this, the Forest Service would have to conduct an in-depth examination of physical and biological constraints on timber management along with costs and revenues that would result from managing the area for timber in perpetuity. Yet, the timber trade-offs analysis in the RARE II final environmental statement does not provide anything close to the kind of analysis required to determine whether or not the 3 deleted areas are, in fact, suitable for timber managment.

2. The data the Forest Service used to describe sites within the deleted segments lacks the resolution necessary to accurately estimate site potentials to produce commercial timber on a sustained basis.

a. Distributions of habitat types in the areas recommended for deletion were not properly researched or verified with field study. The Forest Service applied models for the average distribution of habitat types throughout the entire Lolo National Forest to specific sites within the recommended deletions. Estimates of acreage of suitable commercial timber sites were extrapolated on the basis of data designed to provide information for forest-wide planning. This is not the degree of detail needed to make a site-specific allocation.

b. Potential yield estimates for the deleted areas were derived from Lolo Forest-wide averages for timber yield capability by habitat type. In using this generalized

capability model along with the biologically ans statistically unsound data on habitat types, the Forest Service compounded its error. Using forest-wide potential yield estimates and site models as the basis for calculating these segments' potential yield makes what are marginal sites appear to be average timber sites.

The deleted areas are not average sites for the Lolo Forest. Our habitat type and yield capability data indicate that, at most, only 20 percent of the deleted segments is on suitable timber-producing sites. Eighty percent of the deleted segments constitutes marginal timber-growing sites which would be incapable of producing wood on a sustained basis.

Even on the best sites within the deleted segments (relatively flat sites along streams), opportunities for second-growth management are limited by the lack of access (no road network exists) and by the amount of time it would take for these best sites to successfully recover from the initial removal of old-growth stands.

3. The Forest Service's estimates of the success of reforestation programs in the deleted segments are based on unreliable estimates of regeneration success.

The agency's estimates are based on the forest-wide success of particular methods of site preparation and regeneration. The agency made no attempt to adjust its estimates using more site-specific regeneration data currently available from districts and on-going Forest Service-University of Montana cooperative research projects. The lack of successful reforestation of sites proximate to the deleted segments indicates the need for site-specific, rather than forest-wide, assessments.

4. Site specific analysis indicates it would be very difficult and costly to reforest logged sites in the deleted areas within the five years mandated by NFMA.

Reforestation costs would be prohibitive on 80 percent of the areas recommended for deletion. Slopes in these deletions are generally steep: in more than 60 percent of the deleted area slopes exceed 40 percent. Recent data collected from the Lolo National Forest indicate that costs of preparing a site after logging and costs of planting both rise rapidly on sites where slope exceed 40 percent.

Furthermore,less than 20 percent of the deleted areas is within highly-productive habitat type groups. This suggests that per acre yields and , hence, per acre revenues, might be below those necessary to economically manage the area for timber. Any economic analysis of timber management potential for the areas must consider these silvicultural factors.

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While reforestation would be possible on the remaining 20 percent, and thus timber management profitable, there would be conflicts between timber management and wildlife and recreation management. Much of the reforestable acreage is on easily damaged toe slopes and riparian habitat. Such areas provide key winter range and important wildlife travel corridors and support moderate use by sportsmen and recreationists. In addition, water of the major drainages originating in these areas is dependent on the continued integrity of stream corridors.

5. Site specific economic analysis indicated costs of timber management in the deleted areas will exceed returns.

Meaningful economic analysis of timber management in these areas requires a model consisting of three components:

a. an evaluation of timber currently standing on the site,
b. a yield simulator to "grow" trees in different habitat groups under various stand establishment and thinning regimes, and
c. a cost-benefit analysis of the simulated stand's timber management potential.

Evaluation of standing timber in deleted areas: An evaluation of the timber currently standing in the excluded areas differs from the evaluation of second-growth management since no planting or management costs would be incurred initially -- the trees are a "gift of nature." Timber harvested initially could pay for costs of removal (including road-building costs) and the benefits from this first rotation would be positive. Column 1 in Table 1 shows the value of the standing timber for each of the excluded areas.

Yield simulation: We used a Forest Service yield simulator to "grow" several kinds of forests using various management techniques. This allowed us to see how various intensities of management (such as site preparation and planting regimes and precommercial and commercial thinning regimes) would affect yield. This yield model is the basis of our cost-benefit analysis.

Cost-benefit analysis: Essentially, cost-benefit analysis furnishes a method for comparing the costs and benefits of a particular investment alternative. As with any investment, we should expect some positive return from timber managment. The length of the investment period distinguishes timber management from most other investment opportunities: we do not get any return from planting today for a least 60 years, and probably for 120 years. To make costs and benefits occuring at different points in time commensurate, we discounted all future flows to the present.

In analyzing these components we consistently biased our estimates of crucial variables in favor of timber managment. We overstated

probabilities of regeneration success, overstated stumpage prices, and underestimated costs. We allowed management practices that may run counter to biological wisdom in order to maximize returns to timber management. For instance, we selected regeneration and thinning regimes that resulted in the highest return per acre without regard for silvicultural soundness. Hence, our economic analysis has provided every opportunity for sustained timber management to show positive returns. However, even with this bias giving sustained timber management the benefit of every doubt, our analysis still indicates that timber management will not yield postive results in the long run for any of the deleted areas. Column 2 and 4 of Table 1 show expected net revenues per acres--all of them negative.

Our analysis was particularly sensitive to three parameters:

a. the discount rate used,
b. the rate of real stumpage price increase, and
c. the long run real stumpage price.

We examined a range of discount rates. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) generally reguires a discount rate of 10 percent on government investments, but a report recently issued by the General Accounting Office suggests that the Forest Service use a rate of 5 percent. Our estimates of stumpage prices are based on work currently underway for the 1980 RPA Assessment.

Table 1 presents two scenarios. The scenario we labeled as "most likely" is based on a 5 percent discount rate, no rate of increase in real stumpage prices, and a long run real stumpage price of $50. Our "optimistic" scenario emplovs the same discount rate but allows real stumpage prices to increase 3.5 percent. Using the OMB suggested discount rate did not appreciably change the outcome of the analysis; neither did increasing the real stumpage price from $50 to $60.

Finally, we combined the various components of our analysis to determine the opportunity cost of wilderness classification for each of these scenarios (in terms of timber potential foregone). Opportunity costs represent the values of the highest-valued alternative that society would forego by adopting a particular resource allocation. Columns 3 and 5 in the table show these opportunity costs.

Under our "most likely" scenario, all opportunity costs are negative. Before managing for timber on any of these excluded lands, the Forest Service would have to regard wilderness as economically undesirable and be willing to pay $60 to $140 to get rid of it. That taxpayers should be expected to support such a venture is a ludicrous supposition. Even under our "optimistic" scenario, only area E-2 shows any real postive

TABLE I [a]

Area	1 Value of standing timber/acre	2 "Most likely" net revenue/ acre [b]	3 "Most likely" opportunity cost/acre	4 "Optimistic" net revenue/ acre [c]	5 "Optimistic" opportunity cost/acre [d]
E-1 [e]	36.07	-173.16	-137.09	-27.63	8.44
E-2 [f]	108.71	-165.84	-57.13	-47.54	61.17
E-3 [g]	97.97	-188.74	-90.77	-86.25	11.72

a/ All dollar figures in constant dollars (1972=100).

b/ Assumes long run real stumpage price of $50./mbf.

c/ Assumes a 3.5 percent increase in real stumpage prices.

d/ The positive opportunity costs of E-1 and E-3 probably result from our consistent efforts to bias the analysis in favor of sustained timber management.

e/ E-1 = Deletion north-east of Clearwater Crossing.

f/ E-2 = Deletion directly east of Clearwater Crossing.

g/ E-3 = Deletion which includes Surveyor Lake.

opportunity costs.

6. The Forest Service overestimated job "losses" that would result from wilderness designation.

The RARE II FEIS presents the following job "loss" argument: in classifying areas wilderness, lands are removed from the timber base. This leads to a reduction in programmed harvest, which, in turn, means fewer jobs in the wood products industry and support industries.

The Forest Service indicates there would be a net gain of 13 jobs from non-wilderness designation of E-1301 segments. This is the apparent opportunity cost of wilderness classification in terms of employment.

Our analysis shows that, even under the "most optimistic" scenario and assuming programmed harvest equals potential yield for the sites that show positive returns (again biasing in favor of timber production), inclusion of these lands in the timber base yields only 4 direct and indirect jobs--9 less than the Forest Service estimates.

Under our "most likely" scenario, the Forest Service could not include the deleted segments in the timber base and comply with the sensible timber management practices dictated by the NFMA. Thus, any job loss resulting from excluding these lands from the timber base would be from sound management, not from wilderness classification.

We must also point out that increasing programmed harvest does not necessarily increase employment. Budgetary restrictions have prevented the Lolo Forest from offering its total programmed harvest for sale; of the timber offered for sale recently, only 68 percent was purchased. This suggests the market system, not a shortfall in stumpage supply, restricts employment. The job "loss" argument is not credible.

THE GREAT BURN WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Location

The Great Burn wilderness comprises approximately 243,900 acres in the Bitterroot Mountain Range straddling the divide between Montana and Idaho. Its southernmost boundary lies just north of Lolo Pass and it extends north to Hoodoo Pass west of Superior, Montana. It embraces the headwaters of Fish Creek on the Montana side, and of Kelly Creek on the Idaho side. The area is approximately 155 miles from Lewiston, Idaho, 175 miles from Spokane, Washington, and 50 miles from Missoula, Montana.

Land Characteristics

The Great Burn's terrain is characterized by steep and exceedingly rugged mountains, narrow forested valleys, crystal clear streams, and numerous high alpine, glacial lakes. Although the area portrays all of the characteristics associated with other high quality wilderness areas exhibiting spectacular aesthetic qualities, the Great Burn possesses an additional quality which sets it aside as having uniqueness rarely found except in Alaska and Northern Canada. In the summer of 1910, one of the largest recorded forest fires in history swept through this area, leaving burnt barren slopes and great open vistas of subalpine tundra. A few protected valleys escaped the blazes leaving towering cedar stands and shadowed wandering creeks. This fragile subalpine tundra presents a stunning backdrop to the remaining forested stands as well as an equally delicate foreground to the glacial peaks and valleys.

Present Status of the Proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area

As an outcome of the United States Forest Service (USFS) Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I) of 1973, the Great Burn was designated the Hoodoo Wilderness New Study Area (NSA-29). The Forest Service assigned the area a quality index rating of 171, one of the highest given for wilderness

study areas, both nationally and within USFS Region I. This quality rating exceeds those assigned to all designated wilderness areas within Region I under the Wilderness Act of 1964, with exception of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, which also was assigned an index of 171.

The area described in the Great Burn wilderness proposal includes 157,000 acres identified in RARE I (USFS-1973) and 86,000 acres of contiguous inventoried roadless land added through the RARE II boundary adjustments (USFS-1977).

Human Conflicts and Disturbances

Current use of the Great Burn is predominated by fall hunting, horse packing trips, hiking use for camping and fishing and some snowmobile and motor bike use in localized areas.

There are no known active plans for human development within the Great Burn. There are no utilities or utility rights-of-way that conflict with the purpose of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Four low-standard jeep trails constructed for purposes of prospecting and fire control penetrate the area. The Forest Service recently closed these jeep trails to motorized vehicle use.

There are no scientific apparatus or developed recreation facilities in the area. Numerous outfitter camps are scattered throughout the area, but only minor recommendations would be needed to make their use compatible with wilderness classification and management.

The Forest Service has an understanding with Diamond International company to exchange five sections (approximately 3,200 acres) of Diamond International land for National Forest land. The Forest Service indicates that at least two sections of Diamond International Company may be acquired through purchase rather than exchange.

The only other private land within the proposed wilderness consists of approximately 320 acres along the North Fork of Fish Creek and 80 acres west of White Mountain. The Forest Service is currently involved in a program to

purchase this land along Fish Creek. The Service hopes to consummate acquisition of these acres in the near future.

History

Historically, the Great Burn area was frequented by native Americans, most likely the Nez Perce in recent historical time. Prehistoric use of the area is well documented. Many sites have been inventoried, and evidence points to the aboriginal use of this area as hunting grounds.

In 1802, Lewis and Clark pushed through the Bitterrot Range, travelling along the southern boundary of the Great Burn. The Lewis & Clark trail is a Registered National Historic Landmark. Lewis and Clark were followed by trappers, and then by gold seekers in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The great fire of 1910, which swept from Washington across northern Idaho and penetrated into western Montana, temporarily reducing all human activity in the area. From approximately 1920 to 1940, there was extensive sheep grazing in the area, but by 1943-1945 most of the sheep had been withdrawn, leaving the Great Burn in its existing wild state.

Timber Resource

The 1910 fire still influences the nature of the area's timber stands. Although the fire left most of the subalpine hillsides barren of trees, there are stands of sawlog-sized timber in some valleys passed over by the fire. The Forest Service has projected a reduction in the annual allowable cut of approximately 12.9 million board feet within the Hoodoo New Study Area. Citizen groups have seriously questioned this figure on the following grounds:

1) The Annual Allowable Cut was determined by an application of averages for the working circle.[1] The Forest Service is the first to admit that such a projections is prone to significant inconsistancies when applied to smaller areas, such as the Great Burn.

[1] $\frac{\text{Acreage involved x Assumed Average Volume/Acre}}{\text{Average Rotation Age}}$

2) Value projections for timber stands in the Great Burn fail to accurately reflect the economic and environmental realities of reaching and removing that timber from the area. Soils, slope, and access factors are not examined. Ecological impacts from road construction and logging activities, and the highly erosive nature of soils in the Great Burn must be considered. In addition, inadequate consideration was given to the area's scenic and aesthetic values and critical wildlife ranges.

The aforementioned factors must be considered to obtain a true estimation of the Great Burn's timber value.

Wildlife and Fisheries

In addition to smaller animals such as wolverine, snowshoe rabbit, fisher, and martin, a wide variety of big game animals flourish within the Great Burn. The area is noted nationally for its elk herd. Black bear, mountain goats, moose, and mule and whitetailed deer are abundant. The Great Burn provides habitat for golden eagles, osprey, whistling marmots, and martin. Also sightings of grizzley bear and wolves have been reported.

The waters of Kelly Creek on the Idaho side, and of Fish Creek on the Montana side, are known locally and regionally for their high quality backcountry angling. Species within the area include westslope Cutthroat (Idaho strain), and Golden Trout. Crooked Fork Creek which is within the area, also provides one of the last spawning grounds of Steelhead trout and Chinook salmon which run up the Clearwater River from the Snake River.

Water Resource

Water may be one of the most valuable resources of the Great Burn, both in terms of its quality and quantity.

Along the Bitterroot Divide in the Great Burn, 90 to 100 inches of precipitation is common. Some areas receive up to 110 inches precipitation.

On the Montana side of the divide, runoff from the Great Burn comprises

70 percent of the water flowing into Fish Creek, a large tributary of the Clark Fork River. On the Idaho side, most runoff from the area flows into Kelly Creek and from there into the Clearwater River. Both the Clark Fork and Clearwater are large tributaries of the Columbia River.

Indeed, in its natural state, the Great Burn functions as a highly bountiful watershed--one which provides a resource that is becoming increasingly precious.

No water development projects are planned for lakes or streams in the proposed wilderness.

Minerals

Small-scale mining activities have occurred on the periphery of the Great Burn. Such activities have declined considerably, and today are minor in comparison to the past. No large quantities of minerals are currently being taken from the area and there are no full-time mining operations.

Geological survey information about the Great Burn is scanty. A 1955 Montana survey (Ross, Andrew, Witkind), suggested only the possibility of mineralization. The only geological survey done in Idaho (Ross, Forrester,1947) offers nothing more than extremely generalized classifications. However, the Idaho survey did identify a metamorphose contact zone formed by the meeting of the Idaho Batholith and the Belt Series Supergroup. This type of formation could offer the possibility of mineralization.

Science and Education

The Great Burn is valuable as a living, integrated community, which is virtually free of human influences. The after-effects of the 1910 fire provide unique opportunities for scientific study and wild land education. Because of the 1910 fire, the Great Burn is a rare source of information on natural successional development.

The effects of the fire and subsequent sheep overgrazing exposed archeological sites which may indicate human habitation as long ago as 5,000 years.

Conclusion

According to Forest Service studies, the Great Burn does not contain a high-quality timber resource. No large quantities of minerals are currently being removed and there are no full-time mining operations within the area. Information suggests the area has low to moderate mineral potential. The Forest Service is currently involved in active programs to acquire private land within the Great Burn. Clearly the Great Burn possesses the requirements of wilderness availability.

The Great Burn's water, wildlife, fishery, aesthetic, and archaeological resources are outstanding. The abundance of subalpine tundra in the proposed wilderness is an especially unique feature--one which is rarely found on the North American Continent except in Alaska and northern Canada. Considering the effects of the fire and resultant natural plant and animal successions which have been developing relatively undisturbed by man during the past 67 years, the area offers a rare opportunity for scientific study and wildland education. Because the Great Burn receives little human use, it also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude--a quality highly valued and much-sought by the wilderness recreationist.

The Great Burn is an area of Federal land "untrammelled by man," and retains its "primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation." It has "outstanding opportunities for solitude" and is "over 5000 acres in size." As stated earlier, the Forest Service judges the Hoodoo Wilderness New Study Area which largely makes up the Great Burn Wilderness proposal to have one of the highest quality index ratings of any area selected for wilderness study in the nation. The wilderness values of the Great Burn clearly fulfill all the legal requirements of the Wilderness Act.

The Great Burn should, therefore, be formally designated as the Great Burn Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Summary Fact Sheet

for the

PROPOSED GREAT BURN WILDERNESS

In the mountains along the Bitterroot Divide, 30 miles directly west of Missoula, Montana, is a place refered to locally as the Great Burn. Here are 242,300 acres of land still untouched and wild.

The Great Burn's terrain is that of very steep and rugged slopes, narrow, forested valleys, and crystal-clear streams and lakes. One characteristic is common to the entire area: the effect of the "great burn" of 1910, which swept through most of this wild country. Today much of the area is grass-covered and barren of trees, except for occasional burnt snags standing as quiet monuments. Lush vegetation in the few valleys which escaped the fire poses a striking contrast to the starkness of the surrounding land.

The Great Burn's water, wildlife, fish, recreation, aesthetic, and archeological resources are outstanding. The abundance of subalpine tundra is an especially unique feature--one which is rarely found on the North American continent except in Alaska and northern Canada. The natural plant and animal communities which have evolved relatively undisturbed during the past 69 years render the area particularly valuable for scientific study and wildland education. With the little human use this area receives, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. 1/

In the 1973 Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I), the Great Burn was identified as the Hoodoo New Study Area (NSA-29). It was assigned a Quality Index of 171--one of the highest ratings given to any wilderness study area in the nation. The area described in the Great Burn Wilderness Proposal includes 177,900 acres the Department of Agriculture recommended for wilderness designation in RARE II, as well as 65,300 acres which the department did not recommend for wilderness.

Of these 65,300 acres, about 14,000 acres in Montana were deleted because of "proven" mineral potential and timber tradeoffs (see E-1301 segments on the enclosed map). The Great Burn Study Group finds there is not sufficient evidence of mineralization or timber potential to warrant these exclusions. The evidence is as follows:

A. Deletion based on Mineral Potential (see southern-most E-1301) 2/

1. The term "proven" mineral potential (as used by the Forest Service in their evaluation) means only that there is potential for mineralization. It does not indicate the presence of valuable minerals.

2. The Forest Service devoted only a little over 2 hours to evaluating the area's mineral potential.

3. Little data exists for evaluation of the Great Burn's mineral potential.

4. The only evidence of minerals in this segment is: a) the possibility of favorable geology; b) the presence of a fluorite mine (which was mined out in 2 years over 20 years ago) adjacent to this segment; and c) the presence of 2 inactive mining claims in the segment.

5. Wilderness designation of this segment would not prohibit mineral-related activities.

B. Deletions based on Timber Trade-offs (see 3 northern-most E-1301's) 3/

1. Data used by the Forest Service to describe sites within these segments is not specific enough to accurately estimate potentials to produce commercial timber on a sustained basis.

2. The agency's estimates of reforestation success in these segments are based on inappropriate and unreliable data. It would be extremely difficult and costly to reforest logged sites in these segments within the 5 years mandated by the 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

3. Site-specific economic analysis indicates costs of timber management in these segments would exceed returns.

4. The Forest Service overestimated job losses that would result from designating these segments wilderness.

5. In short, the Department of Agriculture has recommended exclusion of these segments without appropriate physical, biological, and economic analyses. In the absence of site-specific analyses, the Department has recommended deletion of lands which cannot be managed for timber production in accordance with the NFMA.

The Great Burn Study Group finds that none of the deletions for mineral potential or timber trade-offs can be justified. The area's characteristics are clearly the characteristics of wilderness identified in the Wilderness Act. The Great Burn should remain intact and should be formally designated the "Great Burn Wilderness."

1/ For more information on the Great Burn's resources see "The Great Burn Wilderness Proposal," 1977.

2/ For more detailed analysis of the deletion see the "Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS RARE II Deletions Based on Mineral Potential" prepared by the Great Burn Study Group, Feb. 1979.

3/ For more detailed analysis of these deletions see the "Analysis of and Response to the USDA-FS RARE II Deletions Based on Timber Trade-offs" prepared by the Great Burn Study Group, Feb. 1979.

GREAT BURN RESOURCE SUMMARY

Please pay particular attention to the following supportive reasons concerning our recommendations for the Great Burn as Wilderness:

1) Timber: According to USFS studies, the Great Burn does not contain a high quality timber resource.

2) Minerals: The Montana and Idaho RARE II supplements list the Great Burn as Non-critical for producing proven and possible minerals.

3) Recreation: The area provides opportunities for outstanding solitude and unconfined, primitive recreation.

4) Cultural: Important archeological sites of cultural value exist within the area. Aboriginal use of this area is well documented.

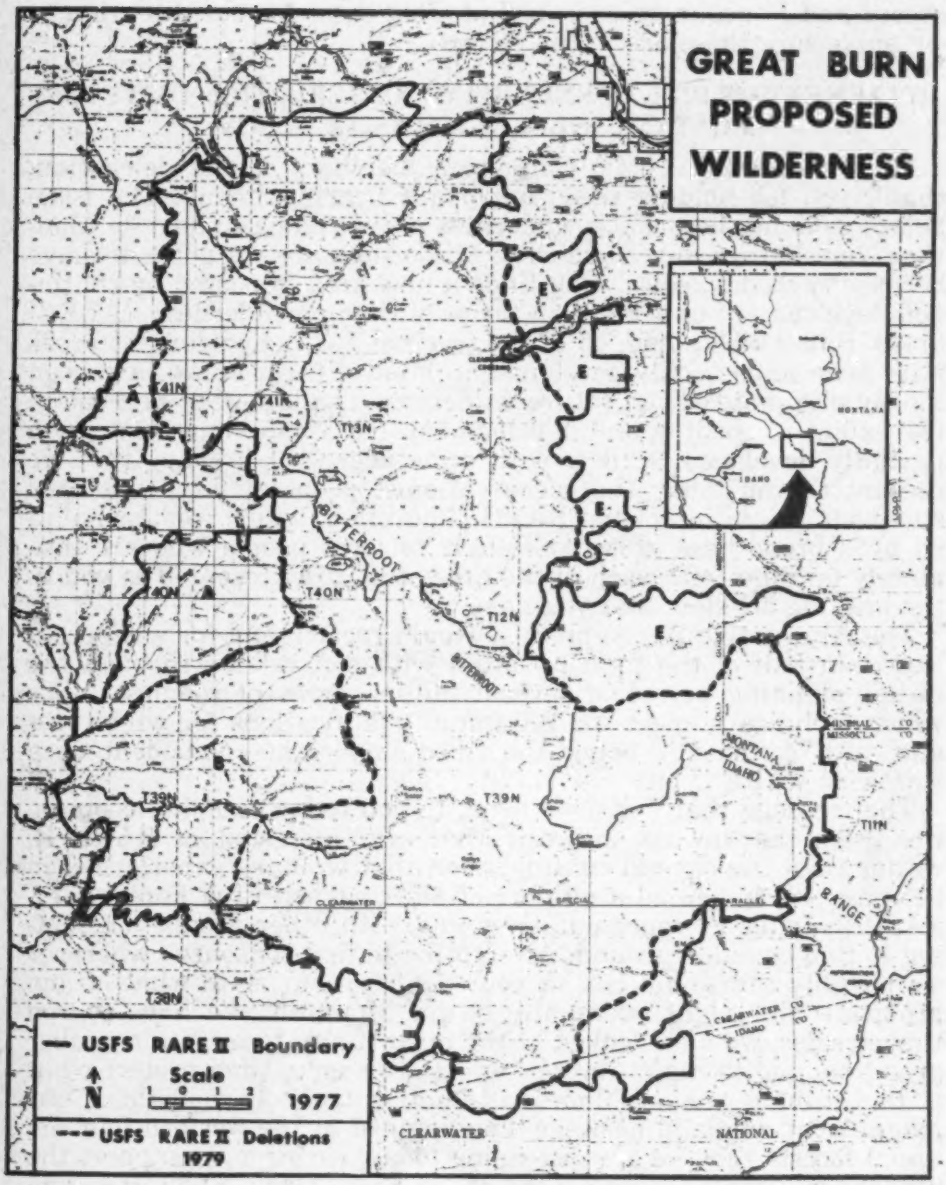
5) Science and Education: Because of the 1910 fire, the Great Burn provides a unique laboratory for the study of natural plant and animal succession as well as other opportunites for scientific study and wildland education.

6) Wildlife and Fish: The Montana and Idaho RARE II supplements list the following 15 wilderness associated species:

Marten	Lynx	Bald Eagle
Fisher	Wolf	Golden Trout
Wolverine	Cougar	Peregine Falcon
Goshawk	Grizzly Bear	Cutthroat Trout
Golden Eagle	Ptarmigan	Mountain Goat

7) Wilderness: RARE I assigned the Great Burn a Quality Index rating of 171, one of the highest ratings given to any roadless or wilderness study area in the nation. The Great Burn was selected by the Forest Service as a "Wilderness Study Area" under the RARE I process and was recommended for Wilderness by the Forest Service under the RARE II process.

The Great Burn is an area of predominately federal land, "untrammeled by man", "over 5000 acres in size" and retains its "primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation". The wilderness valves of the Great Burn clearly fulfill all the legal requirements of the Wilderness Act of 1964.


GREAT BURN
PROPOSED
WILDERNESS
MONTANA
IDAHO
T41N
T41R
T13N
BITTERROOT
T40N
T12N
BITTERROOT
T39N
T11N
MONTANA
IDAHO
RANGE
CLEARWATER
IDAHO
T38N
USFS RARE II Boundary
Scale
1977
USFS RARE II Deletions
1979
CLEARWATER
NATIONAL

Senator MELCHER. Those extra materials will be part of the record and I encourage everybody to flag those for our attention so we make sure those are in the record.

STATEMENT OF BILL CUNNINGHAM, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, members of the delegation, thank you for holding these important hearings today. The issue before us is not how much wilderness are we going to have in Montana, but, rather, how much less wilderness are we going to have because each day, each week finds a new area impacted by continued development under the, in terms of the nonwilderness RARE II areas. Since 1979 alone, 65 of the original 153 nonwilderness areas have been impacted by development. Four of these areas have been totally eliminated from future wilderness consideration because of the extent of roading and development. Sixty-one areas have been partially developed, so it is with some degree of urgency that we present to you today the conservationist proposal for a balanced statewide resolution of the RARE II question, which was formulated by a broad base grassroots effort of local people who are intimately familiar with each of the areas that are presented to you in the briefing booklets that you have.

The Alternative W compromise would recommend for wilderness less than half of the total potential with soft release through the initial planning period of several million acres of roadless lands which technically meet the minimum qualifications for wilderness and with sufficiency being the third important component of a statewide RARE II bill.

The message that I wish to bring to you today is one of cooperation with the various interests that are interested in RARE II, rather than the age-old confrontation that we have experienced in the past. We have had a number of meetings with the Forest Service, with industry representatives and with other groups attempting to find common ground. Attempting to find consensus wherever we possibly can to aid you in your deliberations as to what an appropriate bill might eventually be for Montana. We have toured timber sales, we have looked at the opportunity to maintain timber programs and to maintain jobs and at the same time protect what is truly unique about Montana, what is truly special about our magnificent wildland heritage. Looking just at the western four national forests that we are discussing today, we strongly support the 91,700 acre Montana component of the Great Burn. The Cube Iron-Silcox and the Southern Cabinet Wilderness or the Southern Cabinet Range is another very important area. I just took a backpack in it over the weekend, so I'm all charged up on this particular area but it is very worthy. We have a small Mission Mountain Addition on the south end in Marshall Peak with a boundary deletion to permit the continuation of a snowmobile trail. The Quigg Peak area in the Rock Creek drainage. There is the North Burnt Fork Basin Wilderness Proposal and the Bob Marshall Additions, as well as several other units which are described in detail in your briefing booklets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cunningham follows:]

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Presented at the

SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE /
MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEARINGS

Presented by

BILL CUNNINGHAM
M.W.A. Conservation Director

Missoula - July 5, 1983
Anaconda - July 7, 1983
Great Falls - July 9, 1983

I am Bill Cunningham of Helena, Montana, and I serve as Conservation Director for the Montana Wilderness Association - - a statewide conservation group working toward balanced use and protection of our public lands in Montana. Our major focus is on the preservation and management of federally-administered wildland resources and, in this sense, we are delighted that the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and our Montana Congressional Delegation are conducting these important field hearings in Missoula, Anaconda and Great Falls.

After years of protracted controversy over the allocation of national forest roadless lands, we are excited by the prospect of balanced statewide RARE II legislation that will put an end to much of the conflict and uncertainty we have been experiencing. Much has and will be said about the uncertainty of the timber industry's supply of raw material. But too little has been said about the terrible uncertainty conservationists have had to endure, not knowing which favorite roadless area will be the next target for roads and development; not knowing whether any of our "small w" wilderness heritage will receive rightful protection in our Nation's Wilderness System.

Indeed, our fears are well-founded when one considers that not an acre of the pitifully small 600,000 acres of Montana RARE II wilderness recommendations have been acted on by Congress, and yet hundreds of thousands of RARE II acres have lost their wilderness characteristics because of apathy or insensitivity to their wildland values by the land management agency. The Forest Service has responded well to marching orders from Washington to "get the roads in and the cut out." Indeed, during 1983-84 alone the Forest Service has dozens of timber sales scheduled with hundreds of miles of new roads in priority RARE II "nonwilderness" roadless areas which have long identified as suitable and necessary components of our National Wilderness System. On the Kootenai Forest alone some 1400 miles of new roads have been built--mostly in former roadless areas--during the past 2 years! Since 1979 four

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RARE II "nonwilderness" areas have been totally developed and 61 of the original 153 have been reduced in size due to partial developement.

In the face of these growing threats to our wilderness heritage, it is a wonder that we have anything left to discuss at these hearings. But a lot has happened during the past 4 years since the completion of RARE II. Yes, we have lost a lot of roadless country but these losses are now being faced by growing citizen awareness and concern; concern that we must soon implement Alternative "W"--to preserve the very best of the last wild places while, at the same time, releasing an even larger acreage of roadless lands for nonwilderness uses.

Before describing Alternative "W"--the Conservationist Compromise Proposal for a statewide RARE II bill--I first want to briefly outline some basic facts that I believe will help us all arrive at a just resolution of RARE II:

1) A 9th Circuit Court decision (California v. Block, Oct. '82) has held the final RARE II nonwilderness recommendations to be legally insufficient.

The Court found the final E.I.S. to be inadequate on a number of separate legal grounds. In essence, the Court held that the entire RARE II process was unfairly skewed against wilderness. For example, RARE II set an arbitrary maximum on the percentage of land studied which could be recommended for wilderness of 33%, while none of the alternatives considered releasing less that 37% for "non-wilderness." In addition, five of the alternatives, including the Proposed Action, used a predetermined WARS score percentile cutoff to determine area allocation. These ground rules dictated that RARE II would result in low wilderness recommendations. For these reasons, the Court of Appeals declared the final EIS inadequate and stopped development of certain "non-wilderness" areas until the decision was supported by an adequate environmental impact statement. As noted by the Court, the RARE II EIS was programmed to produce inadequate wilderness recommendations, and the final recommendations bear out the Court's analysis. For this reason, conservationists are urging Congress to designate more wilderness that RARE II recommended in Montana.

2) Wilderness opponents are urging Congress to pass a "sufficiency" bill for RARE II which has no chance of being accepted by Congress unless it is part of a broader legislative effort to resolve RARE II. Whether or not the final RARE II EIS is sufficient isn't the issue--the real issue is one of land allocation. That is, which areas are and which areas are not suitable for inclusion in our Nation's Wilderness System.

3) Conservationists recognize that appeals and lawsuits are not the way to resolve RARE II. What we all need and want is balanced legislation. As such, we have been working hard to discourage appeals. Examples include numerous field tours of controversial timber sales in sensitive areas aimed at making adjustments so that we avoid an all or nothing "win-lose" set of choices. We have conducted numerous site-specific discussions with industry and we have even signed a written agreement with the Helena National Forest agreeing to forego appeals on 10 timber sales in RARE II areas in return for modest adjustments in two key roadless areas. All this is being done to help moderate the traditional hostility between the various interests so that a more cooperative approach can be taken on this issue. With cooperation there can be at least some consensus and with consensus there can be the legislative resolution of RARE II that we are all after.

A revised and reduced alternative "W" is a major step toward finding some common ground. While other groups are holding fast to their 1979 RARE II positions we are taking the initiative with a more flexible approach. We await reciprocity.

Alternative "W" is a bold statement in the future of Montana--a statement which embodies the very best of what Montana is all about. Each of the recommended 22 new national forest wildernesses and 8 additions to existing wildernesses are eminently qualified and deserving. The Montana Wilderness Association has and will conduct numerous field trips in most of these areas this summer and we would welcome the participation of any member of our Delegation or his representative.

Our compromise alternative would designate slightly under 2 million acres as wilderness with a consequent agreement for "soft" release of nearly the same amount of roadless acreage to nonwilderness uses.

I have appreciated this opportunity to submit testimony on an issue of critical importance to the Montana Wilderness Association and its members and cooperators.

STATEMENT OF CASS CHINSKE, BOARD MEMBER, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Ms. CHINSKE. Senators, Congressman, thank you for the opportunity. I'm a Montana Wilderness Association Board member. I'm a private consultant in natural resources, marketing and government issues. Many of the issues have been well addressed already on this panel, so I don't want to be too redundant.

I think that going back almost 5, 6 years RARE II, we had a national conference here. I think a lot of people in this room attended. A lot of us, including industry and conservationists have been very disappointed about some of the results of RARE II. I think some of the issues that we need to take into consideration, as I think you, yourselves, are going to be evaluating which areas should go into production and which areas should be served, I think the most productive lands definitely should be released for development. I think it's dependent upon this economy in Missoula, western Montana and I'm sure the rest of the State.

I think, also, when you are looking at these lands, the costs of development should be looked at very very carefully. I know that Senator Baucus has had a committee that's worked on this for a number of years and I hope their information is available when these decisions are made. Also, I think Bill Cunningham made a very important statement. These areas now are wilderness, they exist as wilderness. The decisions that are made will change this and the decisions that we make should be based on the values that they have, what values we will lose if we make decisions of productivity against conservation. Also, Bill went through and Doris went through a number of areas in Alternative W statement and I would like to talk about one in particular that's very close to Missoula. In fact, it may round out the Missoula Valley where the Rattlesnake National Recreational Wilderness Area and the Great Burn. These are areas for the Missoula community that are used, that are important, they are important for the recreational industries, they are important for the quality of like. I hope that you paid particular attention to the Forest Service recommendation on the Great Burn. It's a good recommendation. There are a number of about 66,000 acres of wilderness that haven't been considered in that recommendation and they should be. Also, Senator Melcher, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine job that you have done in coordinating the trade for the Montana Power lands in the Rattlesnake. I know it was a very difficult job and it was well done.

Senator MELCHER. I wish it were over.

STATEMENT OF ARNOLD W. BOLLE, VICE PRESIDENT, WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. BOLLE. My name is Arnold Bolle. I have lived in Missoula 28 years. I'm retired from the university for 5 years and 5 days today. I'm now vice president of the Wilderness Society, a national citizens organization based in Washington, D.C., consisting of some 77,000 members in every State, with a solid membership in Montana and I'm speaking for them today. I'm also deeply involved in a number of organizations in the State, of course, and primarily a

Montanan, but I, too, want to thank Senator Melcher for introducing S. 1501 on June 20 and the amendment to the Rattlesnake Act and I want to thank the rest of the delegation for supporting this. This is extremely important that we get this finally done and I'm glad—it's a very difficult thing to be worked out and it will meet the 3-year limit specified in the law.

I think this hearing, these hearings by combined delegation is one of the best things that's happened to Montana in a long time.

As the official spokesman for the Wilderness Society, I want to say that we adopt and support Alternative W as presented by the Montana Wilderness Association, and other groups, and I think the brochure which they prepared spells it out very well and I'm sure that that will be part of the record. I would like to emphasize, though, that that is a starting point, because we believe that we can reach agreement and we found by experience—Bill Cunningham has explained what we have been doing and meeting with people in industry and finding that it is very possible for us to reach agreement on satisfactory boundaries. I'm sure we can't do this everywhere but I think it's going to be a great help in reaching decisions in these areas. We have enough experience to be encouraged.

I know there is some concern by others that because the two of us are getting together we are making some kind of deals. I hope they will alleviate any concern here because I think we are working out something that can be hopefully discussed and anyone else, we would be glad to discuss it with. I think the important thing is people coming to the table to discuss it are willing to discuss how big and where the boundaries should be instead of whether or not there should be any, as some of our past arguments tended to go.

Now, as far as proposed areas, I think they are pretty well marked out. I know many of them personally and I have a great fondness for them, and we'll be getting into that further later.

I want to make one important, what I think is an important point as we reach this decision, and that is in the California bill there is a statement that the Forest Service did not provide the information on its best growing sites and therefore, could not, was not in a good position to declare trade-offs when it came to establishing wilderness. I think this is important that this information be obtained and be available and provided to the committee to help the final decision.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bolle follows:]

Hearing before the

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Sub-committee on Public Lands and Reserved Water

Missoula, Montana July 5, 1983

My name is Arnold W. Bolle and I am a 28 year resident of Missoula. Retired from the University of Montana 5 years ago. I am now Vice-president of The Wilderness Society, a national citizens organization based in Washington, D. C. consisting of some 70,000 members in every state of the union with a solid membership in Montana. I am speaking officially for The Wilderness Society to-day. But I am also closely affiliated with several Montana organizations. I am a vice-president of the Bob Marshall Alliance, I am past president of the Montana Wilderness Association and past president of the Friends of the Rattlesnake.

Permit me, therefore, to start my testimony by noting my special thanks to Senator John Melcher for introducing S. 1501 on June 20 and the other members of the delegation for supporting it. This amendment to the Rattlesnake Act of 1980 clarifies the bidding rights of the Montana Power Company needed to complete the land transfer, the final step to carry out the Act in full. We can now look forward to its early adoption and completion within the three year time limit specified in the law.

I want further to thank the members of the Montana delegation for getting together and initiating by these Hearings the process of final allocation of the remaining roadless lands in the National Forests in Montana. These decisions are long overdue and pushing them to completion or as close as can be done will be a great service to all Montanans.

Speaking for The Wilderness Society I officially adopt the alternative W presented by the Montana Wilderness Association and other groups and support it as our position. But in doing so I want to make it clear that this is our starting position. It is our starting position because we have not had timeto work out a better position. It is not that alternative W was not carefully worked out but that there has occurred certain things recently that makes us believe that we can resolve some of our differences and arrive at better boundaries given the time to do so.

During the past few months representatives of the wilderness groups and the timber industry have gotten together to see if it would be possible to reach agreement on some areas. Starting with Monture Creek we were pleased to find that we could and we agreed on a boundary for an extension to the Bob Marshall Wilderness that was warmly accepted by both groups. We have moved on now to the areas in the Lolo National Forest and are making plans for such discussions on all the National Forests in Montana.

We are greatly encouraged by this progress and believe that we can go a long way toward resolving our differences if we have the time to do it.

There is some immediate concern from other interests and perhaps from some of you that we are "making deals" to influence legislation in our behalf and at the expense of sound management. We hope that this is not so. We are not trying to "make deals" we are trying to find the areas of agreement so that we can keep the areas of disagreement as small as possible and also to clarify the bases for disagreement. This process should aid and simplify the process of decision and legislation. There will be plenty of time for other interests to express their ideas and protests. Some of them,

unfortunately, exclude themselves from discussion by being broadly opposed to any designation of land for wilderness, ~~designation~~. With that outlook there is no way to discuss boundaries or anything else.

We believe that the process we have started is the essence of participatory democracy and needs to be encouraged. I urge the delegation, therefore to encourage our discussions openly done as a part of the process of developing this legislation and to give us the time and work with us in keeping the community informed and involved.

I'm sure that agreement on each and every area will not be possible. There will unresolved disagreements. You then have the choice of leaving these areas for further study and include in the bill only those areas agreed to, or you, the delegation, can examine these disagreements and resolve them for us and so include all remaining areas in one comprehensive bill.

Let me now briefly discuss some of the proposed areas. I urge strongly that the first thing we do is get the Lee Metcalf bill completed and passed. This has been hanging far too long and now is in the way of further action. It should have been passed last year. There are some further complications because of the delay but we need to resolve these during mark-up this month. We heard to our amazement recently that in Washington there is an opinion that Montanans don't really want this bill very much. This is utter nonsense. If this isn't passed soon, we're going to be in a mess and perhaps lose protection of some of the most important wildlands in Montana.

The Bob Marshall Alliance would have preferred to introduce a separate bill for that area. Because the next Wilderness bill must contain "sufficiency" language, the boad of BMA agreed that the area of their interested should be included in a state-wide bill. Because of the imminent threat to Deep Creek, however, they

would favor including Deep Creek in the Lee Metcalf bill if possible.

Much as I would like to discuss indivdual areas with which I am familiar, time will not permit it. I would, however, like to make a special plug for the Great Burn Area. I was once a lookout in that remote area. It still has that special charm and wildness found nowhere else. It needs careful study. The support for it has been steady and solid but it is not well known. It is wilderness now for all intents and purposes. It needs careful study to decide on proper boundaries. Don't slight or overlook this area.

There is one final point that I wish to emphasize. In the California Case one of the issues that was expressly upheld in the appealwas that in preparing the RARE II EIS the Forest Service had not identified the best timber growing sites on the National Forests nor had they estimated the potential for increased timber production by increasing management intensity on these lands for timber production. Until such information is available, the court said, the trade-offs for timber and wilderness could not be properly identified.

The Forest Service doesn't have this information in Montana either. Sound decisions on land allocation cannot be made until we have it. Our future timber production is going to have to come from these best sites. Pursuing the last scrawney trees to the mountain tops leads to an unhealthy industry subsidized in a foolish way which may, in fact, be illegal. Making the timber industry dependant on survival from the production on submarginal timber lands is inviting disaster as well as ruining a lot of land in the process.

Lets provide a sound basis for a continuing industry while designating our most precious areas for protection. Future generations as well as we will have our lives enriched and we will provide them with the opportunity to make their own choices on land use and not have to struggle with thepoor decisions imposed on them by us, their forefathers. Let's leave them something to be proud about as well as grateful for.

Senator MELCHER. Don.

STATEMENT OF DONALD ALDRICH, MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. ALDRICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Don Aldrich, a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors and have been active in Montana Wildlife Federation and the local affiliate of Western Montana Fish and Game Association for more than 30 years. The national has a membership in excess of 4.2 million; the State, approximately 3,000; and the local club here in Missoula, 300.

A major concern and involvement of these groups has been to maintain a place for all wildlife and to retain the opportunity to enjoy that wildlife and the wildlands that support them.

In the interest of brevity, I wish to express support for Alternative W and for classification of those areas that were included in the Montana Wilderness bill. The roadless area review process has provided opportunity to identify potential new areas, as well as to add contiguous qualified lands to existing wilderness.

To retain the human and wildlife values in our smaller units, such as the Cabinets, Pintlars, and Mission Mountains and Welcome Creek, we must expand the boundaries to include lands that meet wilderness criteria. Forest plans for many of these units propose some sort of roadless management due to minimal timber values, soil problems, steep slopes, or rocky terrain.

Scotchman Peaks, Cube Iron-Silcox, Sheep Mountain, and Quigg Peak are small units to a specific importance as wilderness and as critical wildlife habitat. Their unique quality should be given careful attention before irreversible decisions are made.

My major personal interest is the proposed Great Burn. I have hunted, fished, and hiked here for 60 years. I have watched the area shrink. I have seen it penetrated and disected. You can drive to the shores of lakes that we walked miles to reach. We used to walk 10 to 14 miles to reach what is now being considered for wilderness classification.

Let's not be optomistic about preserving unroadless areas that are not classified. We will lose some, perhaps we will even lose some classified lands to pipelines, power lines, highway construction. The public needs to be served but let's not leave these areas vulnerable to development for short-term profits without adequate review, public participation, and congressional approval.

Wilderness is a bit like an old shirt. There are those who would rather remove the buttons and rip it up for rags than to give it to someone who could enjoy it. After many unproductive years of screaming "I want it all," representatives of competing interest groups are gathering at the table, making sound resource recommendations as to which of our roadless units are to be developed and which are to remain as wilderness.

These recommendations will simplify the congressional decision. All of the buttons need not go and the shirt can be put to good use as patches for wilderness and patches for development. Thank you, gentleman, for this opportunity.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Aldrich follows:]

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 202—797-6800

I am Donald Aldrich, a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors and have been active in the Montana Wildlife Federation and the local affiliate, the Western Montana Fish and Game Ass'n for more than 30 years. The National has a membership in access of 4.2 million, the state approximately 3,000 and the local club 300.

A major concer and involvement of these groups has been to maintain a place for all wildlife and to retain the opportunity to enjoy that wildlife and the wild lands that support them.

We consider Wilderness an identifiable resource that is desirable, even needed by some people and essential to some wildlife species.

The Roadless Area Review process has provided us an opportunity to identify potential new areas as well as to add contiguous qualified land to existing classified Wildernesses.

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To retain the human and wildlifw values in our smaller units such as the Cabinets, Pintlars and Welcome creek, we must expand the boundaries to include lands that meet Wilderness Criteria. Forest plans for many of these units propose some sort of roadless management due to minimal timber values, soil problmes, steep slopes or rocky terrain.

We also have the option to greatly increase the public value of and the permanence of our large areas like the Selway-Bitterroot and the Bob Marshall. I hope Congress will take advantage of the opportunity while the option is still open.

Scotchman Peaks, Cube Iron-Silcox, Sheep Mountain, and Quig Peak are small units with specific importance as Wilderness and or as critical wildlife habitat. Their unique qualities should be given careful attention before irreversible decisions are made.

My major personal interest is the proposed Great Burn addition to the system. I have hunted, fished and

have seen it penetrated and disected. You can now drive to the shore of lakes that we walked miles to reach. We used to walk 10 to 15 miles to reach what is now being considered for Wilderness classification.

Lets not be optomistic about preserving unroaded areas that are not classified. We will loose some, perhaps even some classified lands, to pipe lines, power lines and highway construction. The public's needs will be served, but lets not leave these areas vulnerable to development for short term profits without adequate review, public participation and Congressional approval.

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These recommendations will simplyfy the Congressional decision. All of the buttons need not go. And the shirt can be put to good use as patches for Wilderness and patches for development.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all. The third panel.

STATEMENT OF GERALD V. PARKER, TIMBER MANAGER, PYRAMID MOUNTAIN LUMBER, INC.

Mr. PARKER. Thank you, Senator. We wish to thank you—by the way, my name is Jerry Parker, I'm timber manager for Pyramid Lumber, Inc., at Seeley Lake. We wish to thank you for this opportunity to testify on possible legislation to resolve the RARE II controversy in Montana. We would certainly welcome legislation to insure the sufficiency of the RARE II study process in Montana, and we also support the release of those lands that are determined to be nonwilderness. The Clearwater-Monture RARE II Area, 1-485, is of particular interest to us since it is located in the Seeley Lake area.

The available land for timber production on the Seeley Lake District has been eroded away through the years beginning with the creation of the Scapegoat Wilderness, which has 71,114 acres. The now proposed Clearwater-Monture RARE II Area, which is 71,021, and the management area constraints put on the remaining acres under the Lolo Forest plan that do not allow regulated timber harvest which is 41,690 acres. Of the original district, containing 311,445 acres, there will now be only a 127,620 acres available for regulated timber harvest with the inclusion of the Clearwater-Monture RARE II Area into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The yearly timber base loss in this area alone equates to the permanent loss of over 50 potential jobs in the wood products industry. The erosion of the timber land base for the dependent community of Seeley Lake must stop or we cannot expect to support a viable woods product base in the community. The timber land base I talk of also includes area of the Flathead and the Helena National Forest that provides some of the timber or the wood products industry at Seeley Lake.

The timber industry and the environmentalists have worked together to resolve a boundary for the Clearwater-Monture RARE II Area, 1-485, to be added to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The area is located in Grizzly Basin and Monture Creek. We have come up with a boundary that satisfies the concerns of the Bob Marshall Alliance and several commercial packers that use the area. The negotiated boundary encompasses 71,021 acres. This is 32,451 acres more than the original timber industry proposal and only 649 acres less than the Carter administration proposal. The key to the success of the negotiated boundary was the honest effort on both sides to try and allocate significant productive timber acres out and real wilderness values in, while maintaining a manageable boundary for the area. We are submitting a map showing the negotiated boundary as part of our testimony.

Another area we wish to speak on is the Marshall Peak RARE II Area, 1-785, also located near Seeley Lake. This area was recommended for nonwilderness by the Forest Service and we concur with this recommendation. It is one of the most heavily used areas on the Seeley Lake District for snowmobiling. There is a road to Lake Elsina allowing senior citizens to enjoy the fisheries of a high mountain lake and it consists of management areas 1, 11, 29, 26, and 27 under the Lolo Foret plan which are basically not prime

timber production but do provide elk summer range, grizzly bear habitat, and migration route for the Mission Mountain Wilderness to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the area is adequately protected under the Lolo Forest plan. I do have a list of some other RARE II areas here on the Flathead and the Helena Forest that we would recommend for nonwilderness and I won't list those now but these are in the written testimony.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to comment.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Parker follows:]

July 5, 1983

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Public Lands Subcommittee
Senator John Melcher Presiding

Rare II Hearings, Missoula, Montana, July 5, 1983

Testimony by Gerald V. Parker, Timber Manager for Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. of Seeley Lake, Montana.

Senator:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on possible legislation to resolve the Rare II controversy in Montana. We would certainly welcome legislation to insure the sufficiency of the Rare II study process in Montana and would also support the release of those lands that are determined to be non-wilderness.

The Clearwater-Monture Rare II area 1-485 is of particular interest to us since it is located in the Seeley Lake area.

The available land for timber production on the Seeley Lake District has been eroded away through the years beginning with the creation of the Scapegoat Wilderness (71,114 acres), The proposed Clearwater-Monture Rare II area (71,021 acres), and the management area constraints put on the remaining acres under the Lolo Forest Plan that do not allow regulated timber harvest (41,690 acres). Of the original district, containing 311,445 acres, there will now be only 127,620 acres available for regulated timber harvest with the inclusion of the Clearwater-Monture Rare II into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The yearly timber base lost from this area alone equates to the permanent loss of over 50 potential jobs in the wood products industry. The erosion of the timberland base for the dependent community of Seeley Lake must stop or we cannot expect to support a viable wood products base in the community. The timberland base I talk of also includes areas of the Flathead and Helena National Forests that provide some of the timber for the wood products industry at Seeley Lake.

The timber industry and the environmentalists have worked together to resolve

a boundary for the Clearwater-Monture Rare II area 1-485 to be added to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The area is located in Grizzly Basin and Monture Creek. We have come up with a boundary that satisfies the concerns of the Bob Marshall alliance and the several commercial packers that use the area. The negotiated boundary encompasses 71,021 acres which is 23,451 acres more than the original industry proposal and 649 acres less than the Carter Administration proposal. The key to the success of the negotiated boundary was the honest effort on both sides to try and allocate significant productive timber acres out and real wilderness values in while maintaining a manageable boundary for the area. We are submitting a map showing the negotiated boundary as part of our testimony.

Another area we wish to speak on is the Marshall Peak Rare II area 1-785 also located near Seeley Lake. This area was recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service and we concur with this recommendation. It is one of the most heavily used areas on the Seeley Lake District for snowmobiling. There is a road to Lake Elsina allowing senior citizen's to enjoy the fisheries of a high mountain lake. It consists of management areas 1,11,20, 26, and 27 under the Lolo Forest Plan which are basically not prime timber production areas but do provide elk summer range, grizzly bear habitat and migration route from the Mission Mountain Wilderness to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The area is adequately protected under the Lolo Forest Plan.

We would also concur with the Forest Service recommendation of non-wilderness for the following Rare II areas on the Flathead and Helena National Forests:

NON-WILDERNESS

Flathead	Helena
1-485 A,S	1-601 A,C,N
1-500	1-602
1-501	1-603
1-502	1-604
1-503	1-605
1-504	1-606
1-505	
1-506	

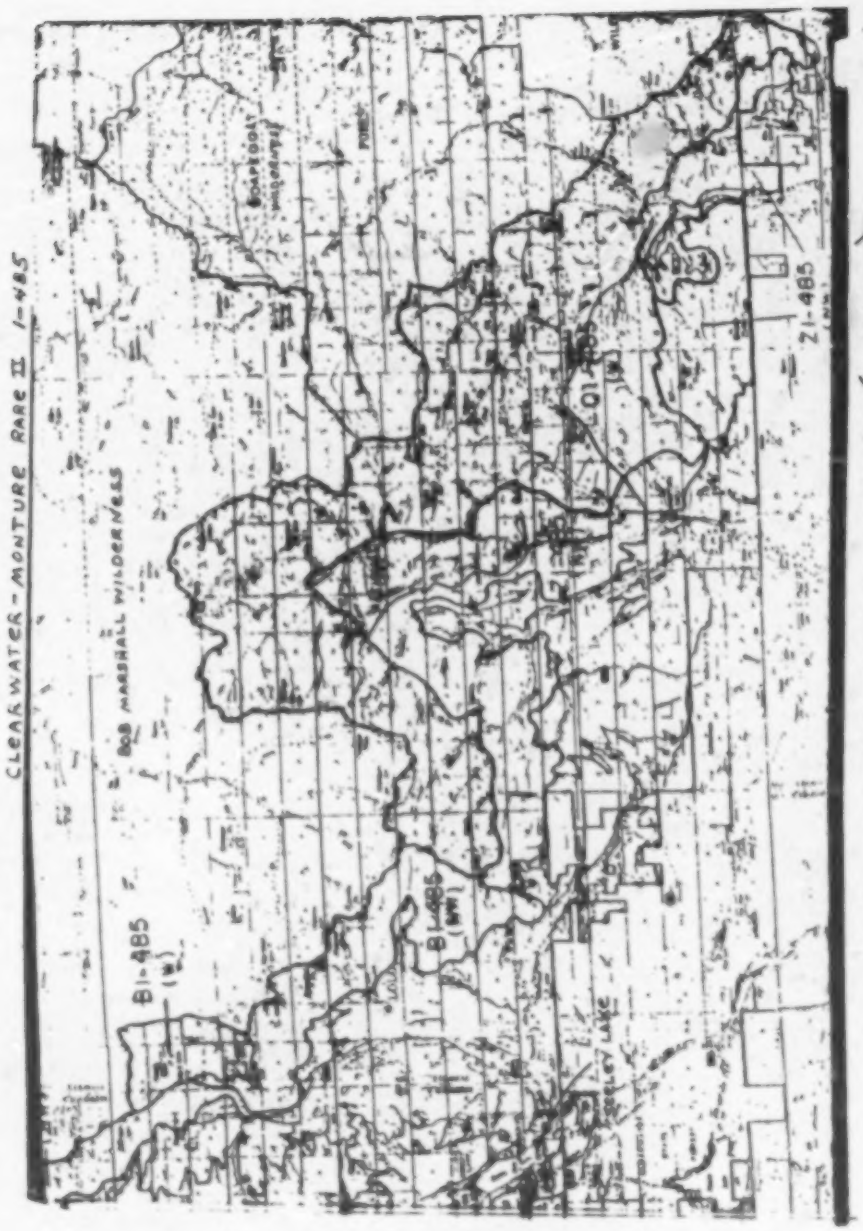
We submit the Helena National Forest areas today as we will not be able to attend the hearing in Great Falls.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

Gerald V. Parker

Gerald V. Parker, Timber Manager
PYRAMID MOUNTAIN LUMBER, INC.
Seeley Lake, Mt. 59868


CLEARWATER - MONTURE RARE II 1-485
BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS
B1-485 (1W)
B1-485 (1W)
10-485
21-485 (1W)
PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS (71,021 ACRES)

STATEMENT OF BILL MARTIN, BULL LAKE VALLEY, MONT.

Mr. MARTIN. Thank you, my name is Bill Martin; I'm a resident and landowner of the Bull Lake Valley which lies between the Cabinet Wilderness and the proposed Scotchman area in Lincoln County. I make my living in the woods, do timber stand inventory and reforestation. I go in before there is any roads and logging. My livelihood is dependent on logging.

I would like to speak today in favor, generally, of preserving more of our wilderness resource and, specifically, for the Cabinet Wilderness additions and for the Scotchman Peak area. In particular, I would like to speak about the Pillick Ridge area which, as I agree with John McBride, is probably the bone of contention there. In the summer of 1976, I spent most of it in the three major drainages of Pillick Ridge coming into Bull Lake Valley doing timber stand inventory on behalf of the Wilderness Institute, which is affiliated with the Forestry School at the University here in Missoula. I hope to be able to include that information in my written testimony later, but at this time I can tell you that a great deal of that country is steep and rocky and from my experience in reforestation, it can't be reforested, and if it could be, it's not that much of an area.

If our timber industry truly were in need of prestigial unroaded areas like that, then, obviously the timber industry would not be viable. There are—we saw an awful lot of bear sign, black bear, as well as definite grizzly bear sign up there. Large population of deer.

As far as the mineral interests up there, we are talking about silver and copper. Copper mines are shutting down, silver mines are shutting down, our current administration is trying to dump some of the silver in the strategic stockpile that we have because we don't need it. If at some time in the future we should need it, it would be nice to know where it is and know that we have got it rather than to go in there now and use it for unnecessary things. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF BILLY H. BROTHERS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, INLAND EMPIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LUMBER, PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Mr. BROTHERS. Thank you Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams. I appreciate being given time to testify at this hearing. My name is Billy H. Brothers, executive secretary of the Inland Empire District Council of Lumber, Production and Industrial Workers. This is a labor organization representing approximately 2,380 people in Montana who are employed by various companies. Our people work in logging, sawmills, planers, plywood plants, treating plants, remanufacturing, laminated beams, and cabinet shops. What happens in the forests of Montana has a direct bearing on our livelihood, so naturally we are concerned.

Our organization, along with many other organizations, have been involved to various degrees in this process for too many years. In 1970, we were discussing things concerning the forest with the late Senator Metcalf and Congressman Olson. We have had numer-

ous resolutions passed at our annual conventions which have been forwarded to the congressional delegation. In 1978, our organization passed a resolution that we sent to the congressional delegation requesting that RARE II be completed promptly and no more wilderness areas be designated until it is decided how much is to be designated to wilderness. Our members, by a large majority, feel we have enough wilderness.

Our members are a large part of the economy in western Montana. Some areas' and towns' economies are largely dependent on those working in the timber industry. With the economy situation as it has been and with so many unemployed recently, this area has been affected enough. Thank God that things have improved.

Some have put great importance on the tourist industry. Those jobs in the tourist industry happen to be low-paying jobs. For each job that is eliminated in the timber industry to replace the earnings, you would have to create two and a half to four jobs in the tourist industry. The forests can be managed where they will still have appeal for the tourist and still have timber harvesting. For each million board feet harvested, there are five direct jobs created in the timber industry. The indirect jobs are usually figured at two and a half indirect jobs to each direct job.

I think now it's time to decide what would be released and managed for other purposes with sufficiency language. The forests have been studied enough with RARE I, RARE II and whatever RARE we are in today. With the situation as it is today, the Forest Service has been put in an untenable position. The allowable cut of timber is figured using the roadless areas not designated for wilderness but neither are they to be harvested. This is causing pressure throughout the forest and could result in some areas being overcut, cut before they should be or reducing the allowable cut. Now is the time to put an end to all the jawboning and put what needs to be into wilderness into wilderness and release the rest with the necessary language for protection, then the Forest Service has their guidelines and can manage in a prudent manner. I thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Billy. Jimme Wilson isn't here, but somebody wants to present his testimony and if that person would move to the table right now, we will hear from Tom Anderson.

STATEMENT OF TOM ANDERSON, COLUMBIA FALLS, MONT.

Mr. ANDERSON. Good morning, Senator. I wish to thank the panel for allowing me to speak this morning. I am a citizen of Columbia Falls, Mont., and land use recreationist. I have utilized part of the Flathead National Forest. I'm finding less and less of it is available to me. One of the things that I feel that we need to do is to consider the RARE II sufficient and continue on with utilizing the forest for what we have in the past in Flathead Forest.

We are looking at almost 50 percent of it now in wilderness; 13.5 percent additional is being considered as a roadless area. I think at this time this panel should consider taking care of some of the people that do utilize it and I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

Senator MELCHER. Tom Hurlock.

STATEMENT OF TOM HURLOCK, KALISPELL, MONT.

Mr. HURLOCK. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. I guess the critical thing we are hearing about today is one thing: Hurry, hurry, hurry. There is a tremendous push on to develop land. We have been developing land furiously in this Nation for a long time.

I just got back from a trip. It's good to change our pace, to change what we do. My wife and I, despite what people think, went to Los Angeles. Went through the desert in the summer. Very different. I have been to LA before. If you haven't been there in 20 years, go back. LA is in a hurry. We got on the freeway—a few days ago, I was on the freeway. Rush, rush, rush; right, left, go, stop, slow. That is almost the essence of America is nervousness. We are, above all, a nervous Nation. We are in a hurry and now there is another final nervous rush to develop the land as though it were needed.

We live here because we choose to. I could live in Los Angeles, I suppose. I could live in, perhaps, any country in the world. I choose to live here. We all choose it pretty much for the same reason, the natural value. We have this rush on to develop. I think it's senseless, there is no rush. It is an artificial rush. Certainly, some people are hurting financially. I'm not doing well either. I'm doing poorly compared to a lot of the timber industry people. A lot of us are hurting. The industry, all industries, all businesses. I have a business. God, nobody needs to tell me what the hell it is like to do poorly, to need money, to go into debt. I could lose my business tomorrow. I'm in it like the rest of them, like the industry, and I think that we need to cool it, to be relaxed, to do our damn best to do a good job.

Let me focus on one forest. The Kootenai Forest, our big timber producer. Ever since the RARE I—it started with RARE I, not RARE II—we have been developing the Kootenai furiously. Look what is left. Look what the Kootenai Forest itself would leave. It would leave Cabinet Wilderness, it's essentially rocky. I would suppose it would leave Scotchman, essentially rocky. It would leave Northwest Peaks, just a little scrap of rocks roaded way up high, all the forest gone. It would leave Ten Lakes, I suppose, at least the ridge tops, on their own. Scraps, that's nothing but scraps.

I have spent years studying the Kootenai. They only plan to leave scraps. What the wilderness groups propose is—by God, is minimal, it's nothing more than minimal. I spoke that—although I support it saying it's minimal. On the Flathead I support the Tuchuck, even though that is minimal.

Remember the relationship between Glacier Park and the Flathead Forest as I did last winter when I was snowshoeing and looked across at a clearcut from the beauty of Glacier Park. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. I think Will Brooke is going to give Jimme Wilson's testimony.

STATEMENT OF JIMME WILSON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC., AS PRESENTED BY WILL BROOKE

Mr. BROOKE. Thank you, Senator Melcher. Jimme Wilson is first vice president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, an organization of 3,000 cattle producers. The stockgrowers and the Public Lands Council have had a resolution since 1977 opposing further designation of wilderness areas.

We realize that the 1964 Wilderness Act allows for the grazing of livestock, subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture, but as you know, these regulations have not always been reasonable. Experience has shown as local Forest Service supervisors can be inconsistent and arbitrary when dealing with a permittee who has a permit in a wilderness area. The stockgrowers appreciate your efforts to clarify the congressional intent with respect to grazing and wilderness. However, there are still problems. Down in the Gallatin, we still have one number who has problems getting in at a reasonable time, getting his sheep into the Gallatin at a reasonable time. And we have worked with that, I know the Wilderness Society has worked with that, but still it's a problem for the sheepman and it's not necessarily the Forest Service's fault. They have to protect the wilderness first, and the livestock is secondary. We have similar concerns about the inability to do intensive range management once an area is designated wilderness. Although some range improvement can be done, it's done only if the improvement improves the wilderness value and, again, the livestock and production of food and fiber are secondary.

There are other problems involved with grazing and wilderness areas. One particularly disturbing problem that we have found out in recent years is that the collateral for the purpose of loaning operating money is not as valid when you are talking about a permit in a wilderness area. Dr. Leroy Luft, a cooperative extension specialist from Montana State University, interviewed agricultural lending groups, such as the Federal Land Bank and PCA to ascertain their attitudes about permits and designated wilderness areas. Federal Land Bank of Glasgow said that it must treat wilderness area the same as it does the C. M. Russell Wildlife Refuge; that is, assign no value to the grazing which exists in the wilderness for a purpose of a loan. The PCA of Lewistown has a policy of lending less money to a ranch which depends on grazing permit in a wilderness area.

Mr. Chairman, credit is the lifeblood of our operators. Without a reliable source of credit, many livestock operators who run in potential wilderness areas will be forced to liquidate.

We are not as concernd about the forests that are represented by this hearing, but the Anaconda and Great Falls hearings do have specific concerns for us and we will have people there to address those. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wilson follows:]

MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 1679 – 420 NO. CALIFORNIA ST. – PHONE (406) 442-3420 – HELENA, MONTANA 59624

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DAVID VOLOSEN

ASSIGNMENT
GLENDIVE
LONGPINE
ROCHEY
MARTINSDALE

STATEMENT OF
JIMME L. WILSON
BEFORE THE
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS HEARING
MISSOULA, MONTANA
JULY 5, 1983
REGARDING: RARE II WILDERNESS

MY NAME IS JIMME WILSON. I AM FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, AN ORGANIZATION OF 3,000 MONTANA CATTLE PRODUCERS.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE, WE HAVE HAD A RESOLUTION SINCE 1977 OPPOSING FURTHER DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN MONTANA.

WE REALIZE THAT THE 1964 WILDFRNESS ACT ALLOWS FOR THE GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK SUBJECT TO SUCH REASONABLE REGULATIONS AS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. AS YOU KNOW, THESE REGULATIONS HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN REASONABLE. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN US THAT LOCAL FOREST SERVICE SUPERVISORS CAN BE INCONSISTENT, AND ARBITRARY WHEN DEALING WITH A PERMITTEE WHO HAS A PERMIT IN A WILDERNESS AREA. THE MONTANA STOCKGROWERS APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THE CONGRESSIONAL INTENT WITH RESPECT TO GRAZING IN WILDERNESS, HOWEVER THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS. ON THE GALLATIN, SHEEP PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET TO THEIR SHEEP ALLOTMENTS BY JULY 1. THE FOREST SERVICE WILL NOT PERMIT THE SHEEP IN THE WILDERNESS FOR A WEEK, SOMETIMES TWO WEEKS LATER. THE FOREST SERVICE IS NOT NECESSARILY TO BLAME AS THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THE WILDERNESS FIRST AND CONSIDER THE LIVESTOCK LATER. MEANWHILE, THE RANCHER IS FORCED TO FEED EXPENSIVE WINTER HAY WHILE WAITING TO TAKE HIS SHEEP INTO THE WILDERNESS.

WE HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS ABOUT THE INABILITY TO DO INTENSIVE RANGE MANAGEMENT ONCE AN AREA IS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS. ALTHOUGH SOME RANGE IMPROVEMENT CAN BE DONE IT IS DONE ONLY IF THE IMPROVEMENT IMPROVES THE WILDERNESS VALUE. AGAIN, THE LIVESTOCK AND THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBER ARE SECONDARY.

THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS. ONE PARTICULARLY DISTURBING PROBLEM IS THAT THE LENDING INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT A PERMIT IN A WILDERNESS IS GOOD COLLATERAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOANING OPERATING MONEY. DR. LEROY LUFT, A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SPECIALIST FROM MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERVIEWED AGRICULTURAL LENDING GROUPS SUCH AS THE FEDERAL LAND BANK AND THE PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR ATTITUDES ABOUT PERMITS IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS. THE FEDERAL LAND BANK OF GLASGOW SAID THAT IT MUST TREAT WILDERNESS AREAS THE SAME AS IT DOES THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE...THAT IS, ASSIGN NO VALUE TO THAT GRAZING WHICH EXIST IN THE WILDERNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF A LOAN. THE PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCITION OF LEWISTOWN HAS A POLICY OF LENDING LESS MONEY TO A RANCH WHICH DEPENDS ON A GRAZING PERMIT IN A WILDERNESS AREA. MR. CHAIRMAN, CREDIT IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF MANY OF OUR OPERATORS. WITHOUT A RELIABLE SOURCE OF CREDIT, MANY LIVESTOCK OPERATORS WHO RUN IN POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS WILL BE FORCED TO LIQUIDATE.

WE ARE NOT ONLY CONCERNED FOR THE GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK IN WILDERNESS AREAS. THE BROADENED TAX BASE WHICH IS CREATED BY THE MINING INDUSTRY AND THE TIMBER INDUSTRY ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THOSE OF US ON THE LAND. THE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN IS ALREADY HIGH IN COUNTIES WHERE PUBLIC LAND EXISTS. WHEN POTENTIAL TIMBER AND MINERALS ARE REMOVED AS A SOURCE OF REVENUE, THE BURDEN FALLS HEAVIER ON OUR LIVESTOCK, MACHINERY, AND LAND. FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TIMBER ON OUR

PRIVATE LANDS, THE LOSS OF A SMALL LOCAL SAWMILL BECAUSE OF NO TIMBER BASE IS THE LOSS OF A MARKET FOR OUR TIMBER.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITEE, I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POLLS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSTY OF MONTANA WHICH SAY THAT NEARLY 60% OF THOSE MONTANAN'S POLLED DO NOT WANT MORE WILDERNESS. I HOPE THAT YOU STRONGLY CONSIDER OUR ATTITUDES HERE IN MONTANA WHEN WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IS DRAFTED. I REALIZE THAT WILDERNESS IS A NATIONAL ISSUE BUT IT IS WE AT HOME WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCE OF WILDERNESS.

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE TO RESOLVE THE WILDERNESS DEADLOCK IN MONTANA. WE CAN NOT GO ON WITH THOUSANDS OF ACRES HANGING IN LIMBO BECAUSE IT IS DE FACTO WILDERNESS WAITING FOR A DECISION BY CONGRESS.

OUR ASSOCITION OFFICE WILL SEND THIS COMMITTEE A COPY OF DR. LUFT'S STUDY ON PERMIT VALUES IN WILDERNESS AREAS. WE SHALL ALSO SEND YOU A LIST OF ALL THE GRAZING PERMITS IN POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS. THERE ARE 185,000 ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS IN THE NORTHERN REGION WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.

ON BEHALF OF THE MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, I THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THESE HEARINGS TO MONTANA. I ONLY HOPE THAT LIVESTOCK OPERATORS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THESE HEARINGS HAVE TIME TO LEAVE THEIR RANCHES DURING THIS BUSY TIME.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Thank you all on the panel.
Ms. Rhodes.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA D. RHODES, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ms. RHODES. My name is Barbara Rhodes. I live in Libby and I'm testifying today for the League of Women Voters of Montana. The League of Woman Voters stands committed to the view that there can be no ultimate conflict between a land use policy that supports equal rights for all and one that supports a physical environment beneficial to life. We focus on the need to foster an optimum balance between human needs and environmental quality. To these ends the league encourages the Forest Service and Congress to develop land use goals to conserve national resources and to insure the consideration of all public and private rights of those whose activities are acted upon by land use decisions, to minimize conflict and decisionmaking and to insure more effective citizenry participation.

We understand that the decision on these lands will be made upon several criteria. Agreement by the public is seen as a priority. Also considered is the ability of the area to represent a major landform or ecosystem and add to the diversity of the wilderness system. We understand that the goal of 25 million acres is established.

As a wilderness advocate, the league wishes to endorse the Scotchman Peaks area on the Kootenai. This 52,400 acre massive range is home to the grizzly, as well as a full complement of species that, unthreatened, inhabit the ecosystem. Nothing should mar the drainage that nurtured a natural cathedral, the adjacent Ross Creek Cedar Grove. The Cabinet Mountains Additions East and West help protect the fragile ecosystem that this range of wild country needs, to extend the buffer of unthreatened habitat for the grizzly, as well as black bear, elk, several species of deer and moose. This range is one of the most accessible to hiking enthusiasts. Glacier lakes and rushing creeks reward the angler. These additions do not interfere with the planned ski development in the East Cabinets. The Trout Creek area could also be included in the wilderness system as it provides inaccessible roadless habitat for elk security.

What of the balance of the roadless resource? Why is this roadlessness important? What impetus prompts polarization over the allocation of these lands? Is it concern over management practices? Is there some biological reason to see these small scattered parcels of old growth as a needed component of the forest ecology? Concern is voiced over the conservation practices of the land managers. Logging slash is still dozer-piled and burned to the detriment of the airshed. Timber is cut on steep slopes with fragile soils. Chemicals are used for site preparation, although this is not true on the Kootenai. Timber harvest roads are so overbuilt that they pose a serious threat to the continued existence of the game herds, while subsequent attempts to limit access with gates raise controversy and ill will.

More than simply release language for a review process, the Forest Service needs direction to decide the fate of these lands. The league supports the placement of significant intact, essentially roadless blocks of land in the administrative designation of primitive recreation. The purpose of this action is to ease pressure on these lands, to shift attention to the fact that the timber harvest needs for the near term are already assured. On the Kootenai, 850 million board feet of timber have been sold for future harvests. Decision on these lands could thus be deferred while recognizing that demands could be made upon them in the future. The roadless resource on the forests provides, ecologically, a balanced management of old growth important to maintain the stability of the forest. A healthy ecosystem is only rarely attacked and then little damage is done compared to even age stands of nursey-raised or natural growth as when lodgepole comes in thickly after a forest fire. The league is concerned that those lands that are returned to the timber base be managed with more attention to the needs of wildlife and fisheries, to watershed protection and water quality. As specified in the Resources Planning Act and the National Forest Management Act, access for timber harvest should be designed and built to minimize erosion, and unless the need for a road is permanent, it should be minimized to lessen impacts on wildlife. The deficit on the Kootenai is 20 million annually. Deficit spending for an unneeded and unwanted transportation system is not good economic logic nor is it good land management. Thank you for your consideration.

Senator MELCHER. James Conner.

STATEMENT OF JAMES R. CONNER, DIRECTOR, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. CONNER. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is James Conner. I am a resident of Kalispell, Mont., where I am a private business person. I am also a director of the Montana Wilderness Association and perhaps most important, I am the brother of men who depend upon the natural resources industry for their livelihood and I am certainly sympathetic to their needs.

I appear before you today to urge the adoption of comprehensive legislation which would equitably resolve the issues of land allocation which have been unsuccessfully addressed by RARE II. These are political questions which must be addressed through the political process and it is time that we address them so we can get on with the business of managing the public lands so as to provide the greatest benefits for present and future generations. For that reason, I am most grateful to have you here today and to have this opportunity to testify before you.

I favor, therefore, omnibus legislation that would accomplish three things: First, it will designate as wilderness those areas that are worthy to have wilderness designation; second, it will release from contract the initial forest planning period RARE II lands that are not added to the wilderness system; and, finally, for the RARE II lands addressed in this omnibus bill in Montana, declare that the RARE II environmental impact statement is legally sufficient.

I support alternative W recommendations. In particular, I support the proposed Flathead additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, especially the Lone Tree addition, the proposed Tuchuck, Mount Hefty, Thompson-Seton Wildernesses on the Flathead, and the proposed Swan Chest Wilderness.

I especially wish to voice my support of the Swan Crest Wilderness. This is a magnificent region of rocky creeks, secluded meadows, alpine basins, and glittering, fish-filled lakes. It includes the Jewel Basin hiking area and the grizzly rich lands between Big Hawk Lake and Sixmile Mountain. I have hiked and climbed the entirety of this outstanding region from Columbia Mountain in the north to Sixmile Mountain in the south. In all of my travels throughout the United States, to Baja, Calif., to Mexico, I have encountered no other areas so deserving of wilderness designation as the unique quality providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation while being close to an urban area. It provides the grand eastern backdrop to the Flathead Valley and from my home west of Kalispell where I can see the high peaks in Glacier Park and Swan Peak in the Bob Marshall. I can see the Swan Crest every day in sunlight, in storm, and winter and summer in a thousand different moods and colors, always different, always beautiful, always awe inspiring, and always worthy of preservation as wilderness.

I urge you in the strongest terms possible to add the Swan Crest and the other de facto wilderness of alternative W to the National Wilderness Preservation System by means of the kind of omnibus legislation that I have outlined above.

I would also, Mr. Chairman, like to submit to you a letter by Mr. Wayne Herman of Kalispell who is working today and was unable to attend but asked that I bring it to your attention.

[The letter from Mr. Herman follows:]

KALISPELL, MONT., *June 30, 1983.*

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Dirksen Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: This is to inform you that I support the "Alternative W" areas as listed by the Forest Service during Rare II studies.

I don't believe anyone wants to go through a Rare III process, including Conservationists. There certainly are roadless areas that don't qualify for wilderness and should be released for non-wilderness uses.

I have been involved in the forest planning process since the late 1960's and served on the Flathead Forest advisory Committee in the early 70's so am more than casually interested in the future of the forest.

Considering this is the last chance in Montana for Wilderness, forever, I don't think "Alternative W" is unreasonable. It is unfortunate we are put in a position of having to make final judgment on all remaining roadless areas simultaneously at this point in history. At a time when wilderness use is increasing, potential wilderness areas are disappearing. If we are to err it should be on the conservative side. The next generation won't have that option.

Of the proposed Wilderness Ares I am familiar with, I would consider the Mt. Hefty-Tuchuck-Thompson Seton areas the most important. My reasons are the density of the grizzly population in that vicinity and the importance of the proximity to Glacier Park as far as wildlife migration is concerned. Particularly the wolves documented in the Upper North Fork of the Flathead.

Another important addition to the wilderness system would be the proposed Swan Crest Wilderness Area. Living in Kalispell, these mountains to the east are a continual source of appreciation and beauty. We are deeply concerned over oil and gas leasing of the Jewel Basin and believe the Swan Crest should be given the protection of wilderness classification.

I am alarmed at the possibility of having a Montana Rare II bill introduced with "sufficiency" language included, unless the majority of the "Alternative W" areas are included in the Wilderness system.

I know there are many demands for the remaining roadless areas in Montana and the nation. There is an awesome responsibility in making these final decisions on wilderness, for this is our last chance. I hope history will judge you as men of vision.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and I request these comments be included in the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

WAYNE E. HERMAN.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Mr. Fischer.

STATEMENT OF HANK FISCHER, MONTANA REPRESENTATIVE, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Mr. FISCHER. Thank you. My name is Hank Fischer. I'm the Montana representative for Defenders of Wildlife. I'm also the secretary-treasurer for Bob Marshall Alliance.

I wanted to start out by talking about a basic concept that we might use to guide what areas we choose as additions to Montana's wilderness and that's the concept of adding lands to our existing wilderness ecosystems. I think it's extremely important that our largest wilderness complexes represent complete or near complete ecosystems because this provides them with an ecological stability that fragmented tears can't provide. In their early days when many of these wildernesses were established, the concept of ecosystems wasn't well understood, and an emphasis was placed on forming wilderness boundaries based on, perhaps, unusually scenic terrain or known areas of commercial value. For instance, the Bob Marshall boundaries were established without any knowledge of elk migration patterns, grizzly bear needs, bighorn sheep areas. Today we know from our extensive research what those areas are and it gives us the opportunity to fill out those ecosystems so that we can protect those wildlife species.

The specific areas that I wanted to mention start on the Lolo National Forest and one of the key parts of the Bob Marshall Alliance Wilderness proposal is the Monture area and you will hear about that further on from several members of the Bob Marshall Alliance. I think the most important thing about the Monture area is I think this is the textbook example of how a compromise can be worked out. I also wanted to specifcially mention the Great Burn area on the Lolo National Forest. This area compliments the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and has many unique values of its own. I have hiked and skied in this area a great deal and I think it's one of the superior potential additions to the Montana wilderness. The Flathead National Forest, one of the proposed parts is the Swan part. That's also part of the Bob Marshall Alliance proposal and this part is extremely used. The Holland Lake Trailhead is in this area and not only the area heavily used adjacent to the Bob Marshall, it really has some superior areas of its own. I think the high peaks of the Swan is probably much more scenic than the area we have in the Bob Marshall now. Also in the Tuckuck and Monture, and I have been deeply involved in the management of these three areas for the past several years. I will stop there.

Senator MELCHER. Mike.

STATEMENT OF MIKE COMOLA, HELENA, MONT.

Mr. COMOLA. Yes, my name is Mike Comola from Helena, Mont. I'm here to represent myself today. I thank you genetlemen, very much for this opportunity.

To begin, I would say that I have never asked for nor do I now, for wilderness classification based upon strictly philosphical reasons, for some of the best rationale for wilderness classification lies in economic arguments. What I do ask from you gentlemen is unified, objective evaluation of the areas to be included in omnibus legislation by this Delegation. I must caution, however, that attempting to divide a roadless area into so many pieces and in an attempt to reduce controversy, in other words, to be all things to all people, can, in many cases, be extremely detrimental to preserving the wildland integrity of that particular area.

As the vehicle upon which to base this piece of legislation, I would urge you to consider the Montana Conservationists Alternative W. As one who is involved in preparing this citizen response to the Forest Service RARE II administrative process, I can relate to you the many difficult choices a large number of your constituents faced in determining which of those approximately 6½ million roadless acres they would recommend for wilderness classification in an attempt to seek a reasonable recommendation.

For the time allotted to us today, I don't have nearly enough time to go into all the things I would like to cover and to discuss each of the individual areas that I would like to discuss, so allow me, at this point, to discuss one particular area which is and has been very close to me for a period of many years. Scotchman Peaks, approximately 88,000 acres straddling the Montana-North Idaho border. Approximately 67,000 acres of this roadless area are located in the State of Montana. There are and have been and probably will continue to be for many years in the future a variety of issues to be debated in determining which of Scotchman's many resources will be included within a wilderness boundary.

At this point, allow me to discuss those most often voiced objections to classification for all or portions of Scotchman Parks. Principal among these are commercial timber and potential mineral deposits. Minerals which have been forwarded repeatedly used as rationale for removing approximately 35 thousand acres from existing RARE II Carter Administration Wilderness Boundary, which is similar to what I am recommending to you today. The acreage is located primarily in the northeast and southeast of Scotchman. It's the latter portion generally referred to as Pillick Ridge.

During June of this year, I was fortunate to meet with officers of Asarco and the timber industry in an attempt to compare concerns and meet in boundary compromises. Although there was not reasonable response by the timber industry, I am confident an agreement can be reached with Asarco which will protect their interests while protecting Scotchman's ecological integrity. I was impressed with the company's willingness to achieve consensus in the public interest.

Mineral potential has been brought up again, interestingly, primarily by the timber industry representives, as reason to delete the approximately 31,000 acre Pillick Ridge. It must be understood that the key mineralization is not within Pillick Ridge but in an area known as Star Gulch and Squaw Peak Area—and I'm about four pages away from finishing my testimony, so which obviously your sense of humor wouldn't allow today, so let me conclude with that.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Comola follows:]

Prepared Statement of Mike Comola

Senator Melcher, members of Montana's Congressional delegation, ladies and gentlemen:

Knowing full well that some of Montana's Congressional delegation's oppositon to wilderness classification and others refusal to assume a public posture fearing an affect on their re-election, has made it exceedingly difficult for me to appear here today and present testimony. I have decided to do so in the hope that rather than wasting my time, public support for preserving a small reminent of Montana wildlands might prompt you to put aside your fear and individual biases and rather than using this Omnibus Wilderness Legislation to abruptly slam the door on Montana's wilderness, use it instead, as a vehicle of opportunity to preserve certain areas and opportunities for future Montanans.

I have never asked, nor do I now, for wilderness classification based upon strictly philosophical reasons, for some of the best rationale for wilderness classification lies in economic arguments. What I do ask is unified, objective evaluation of the areas to be included in Omnibus Legislation by this delegation. I must caution however, that attempting to divide a roadless area into so many pieces in an attempt to reduce controversy, in other words, to be all things to all people, can in many cases be extremely detrimental to preserving the wildland integrity of that particular area.

As the vehicle upon which to base this piece of legislation, I urge you consider Montana Conservationists Alternative 'W'.

As one who was involved in preparing this citizen response to the Forest Service's RARE II administrative process, I can relate to you the many difficult choices a large number of your constituents faced in determining which of those approximately six and one-half million roadless acres they would recommend for Wilderness Classification in an attempt to seek a reasonable recommendation. Alternative 'W' encompasses approximately 2.2 million roadless acres that contain some of the finest remaining defacto wilderness in Montana; that have strong public support, that, in some cases, provide transitional life zone habitat now sadly missing in Montana's wilderness system,insures cost efficient wildlands preservation of these key areas for future Americans and perhaps most importantly, to some, pose little or no financial burden on local communities.

While I would welcome an opportunity to discuss each area that I am recommending to you in Alternative 'W', obviously, five minutes is inadequate to do so. Therefore, the remainder of my time will be spent discussing the magnificant 88,000 acre roadless expanse which has become widely known as Scotchman Peaks, located in Sanders and Lincoln countys of Northwestern Montana and Northern Idaho. Scotchman has been the subject of considerable public attention since 1969.The original Forest Service inventory of roadless acreage has since been expanded to approximately 66,418 acres within Montana, the result of extensive public involvement in the Forest Service's land use planning process prior to the onset of RARE II.

The Kootenai National Forest contains some of the finest roadless areas in Montana, a State nationally renowned for its

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unparalleled wildland values. Regretably, only a minute amount of this forest total acreage has been allocated for uses other than commodity production. Scotchman Peaks represents nearly the final opportunity to set aside a portion of this remarkable wild country, and in so doing, preserve a reminent of what was once a vast and untouched territory.

Scotchman Peaks can be described by two adjectives: Magnificent and Rugged. The imprint of mans intrusion are so far unrecognizable. Among its varied wilderness attributes, the area offers unparalleled opportunity for solitude, unusual ecological features, including a variety of habitat types and life zones in various stages of plant succession, habitat which supports several rare and endangered species and an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. Numerous locations allow for pedestrian access into this unique ecosystem.

Rapid vertical relief and regular Pacific maritime influences combine to create an unusual mixture of stark alpine terrain and lush temperate valley floors. Housed in this breathtaking setting is a small but healthy and self-sustaining population of Grizzly Bear, a threatened species. In addition, populations of bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, elk, all species of deer, moose, cutthroat trout, mountain bluebird, bald and golden eagles depend on Scotchman as home and most importantly, rely upon its irreplacable habitat.

Among floral attributes, the Ross Creek drainage contain what may be the oldest and largest stand of Western Red Cedar in the world. Biologists from the University of Montana have considered

recommending the Ross Creek drainage as a natural research area for biological study -- fitting testimony to the ecological value of this portion of Scotchman. If wildflowers are any indication, then diversity is a by-word of Scotchman Peaks. A recent study documented the existence of fully 130 separate species of wildflowers. Furthermore, testing has demonstrated that water quality rates among the highest in purity index in the State of Montana.

Wildernes suitability has never been an issue to Scotchman. By the latest quality evaluation, the RARE II Wilderness Attributes Rating System (WARS), the area received one of the highest ratings in the region. Additionally, a previous Forest Service evaluation documents above average wilderness suitability, excellent opportunities for primitive recreation and highly unusual scenic quality.

The Scotchman boundary I am today recommending, represents a culmination of local, statewide and national citizen concern favoring preservation of the area contained within that boundary. The Forest Service files are pregnant with letters accumulated through the years in support of the Scotchman Wilderness requested of the delegation at this time.

Examination of strictly RARE II public input clearly demonstrates this point. The Forest Service received 3,395 public 'inputs' containing 4,604 signatures support maximum Scotchman Wilderness -- the greatest number of supporters for any roadless area throughout the nation during RARE II. An important point here, in evaluating such public input is not strictly totals, but types of input; Scotchman is no exception. 1,954 personal letters supported the maximum wilderness boundary while only 149 personal letters opposed wilderness. Interestingly, while the Forest Service final

RARE II Scotchman recommendation was for a substantial boundary modification resulting in a reduction of approximately 31,000 acres, only 46 public inputs, or .9% of the total input received supported such modifications. (A historical side point is that the Forest Service nationally, responding to instructions from the highest echelons of the service, completed these boundary modifications nationally 2 weeks prior to the close of public input period of RARE II!!).

The more than a decade of public outcry seeking wilderness protection for Schotchman has taken its toll. Many of those individuals whose voices have joined with others in seeking permanent wilderness protection over the years are not here today. Many have tired of the protracted battles with an obdurant Forest Service or the seemingly insensitive Montana Congressional delegation. A few stalwart supporters have passed away. More have moved on, time having dictated life in places far removed from the Grand Scotchmans they fought to preserve. That those individuals are not here today fails to diminish their concerns for they have left a clear record -- for those that choose to look -- in support of an approximately 87,000 acre Scotchmans in Idaho and Montana.

Wilderness classification of Scotchman's approximately 67 thousand acres in Montana cannot be divorced from the management of the remainder of the Kootenai Forest. The direction of that management through the land use planning process is reflected by the re-allocation of approximately 650,000 roadless acres on that forest during the past decade. That acreage has been classified in great part, intensive timber management as is testified by the

present land use planning recommendation of an additional 6,000 miles of road access to the approximately 6,000 already in existence, or a road every 300 yards on those lands considered commercial forest in the Kootenai (1.6 million acres).

At this point, allow me to discuss the most often voiced objections to classification of all or portions of Scotchman, and address each in turn. Principle among these are: Community dependency on timber production, commercial timber and potential mineral deposits.

Minerals have been forwarded repeatedly as rationale for removing approximately 35,000 acres from the existing RARE II Carter Administration wilerness boundary (which similar to Montana Citizens Proposal). This acreage is located in the Northeast and Southeast, the latter generally referred to as Pellick Ridge.

During June of this year, I was fortunate to meet with officers of ASARCO, Inc. and the timber industry, in an attempt to compare concerns and meet in boundary compromises. Although there was was no reasonable response by the timber industry, I am confident an agreement can be reached with ASARCO which will protect their interest while protecting Scotchman's ecological integrity. I was impressed with the company's willness to achieve consensus in the public interest.

Mineral <u>potential</u> has been brought up repeatedly (interestingly, primarily by the timber industry representatives) as reason to delete the approximately 31,000 acre Pellick Ridge. It must be understood that the key mineralization is not within the Pellick Ridge area but with the Star Gulch, Squaw Peak area, a narrow 6 mile corridor which joins Pellick with the larger body of

Scotchman. During the past ten years, this area has been explored, and abandoned, by ASARCO, Inc., Cities Services Minerals and U.S. Borax. Most importantly however, is that the principle area of potential mineral concentration is held by Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining Company, Inc., a small company whose by-laws provide for mineral development using 'pick and shovel' technology and who supports the wilderness boundary I recommend to you today. In addition, this company has spent thousands of dollars exploring the areas mineral potential and delineating ore bodies. Their methods have left hardly a trace of their presence, yet have been successful in proving to the satisfaction of the company's officers that labor intensive development within the perimeters of corporate by-laws can be proven commercially feasible. Therefore, wilderness classification by December 31, 1983 will prove no burden upon this company's plans, which, I repeat, are completely compatable with wilderness classification.

Since timber production and community timber dependency are closely aligned, I will discuss them together. While Northwest Montana is one of historically high unemployment, let's not continue rushing to place the yoke of responsibility on wilderness classification, and in this case Scotchman. I believe the reason I find timber industry representatives championing 'potential minerals' in the Pellick Ridge area as their rationale for deleting the area from wilderness is quite clear. They are full aware that a timber argument by itself will not stand even casual scrutiny.

Nine-five percent of the North side of Pellick Ridge, that area predominately of concern to the timber industry, forms fore, mid and background viewing from the most popular scenic drive in

the Northwest, increasingly heavily traveled by tourists and residents strictly for the pleasure of the drive. The Kootenai Forest is readily aware of the exceeding high cost of road access and harvest due to these viewing constraints, viewing constraints which would also drasticly limit forest management practices necessary to eventually provide an economic return to the public from development of the area. In addition, the timbered areas identified as commercial on Pellick Ridge during land use planning, (1,200 acres standard, 800 acres special, 500 areas marginal, 7,500 acres non commercial and 17,090 acres deferred), are generally beyond the range for economically feasible helicopter/baloon logging. Property owners in the Bull River Valley have historically refused Forest Service easement for road access. Thus any road construction would, of necessity, have to begin miles North from Dry Creek to avoid private property, a prohibitively costly necessity, even overlooking the wildland resources irretrievably lost from such development.

With the staunch opposition timber representatives will offer to wilderness classification of Pellick Ridge, one would be inclined to conclude that the exceedingly small commercial acreage mentioned earlier would produce great quantities of fiber volume. To the contrary, even if <u>all</u> of the combined commercial volume from Pellick Ridge and the remainder of Scotchman were available, it would produce under hypothetically perfect conditions but 3.5 million board feet potential yield, enough to operate the Libby St. Regis mill six and one half days during a busy season. Viewed from another perspective, the uncut timber backlog in the Kootenai Forest <u>alone</u> nears <u>1 Billion board feet</u>, enough to fuel the same

mill slightly more than 5 years at 365 days a year production of 531,100 board feet per day.

It does not require much imagination to conclude Scotchman's timber volumes do not help, or hinder, the region's commercial fiber production or adversely affect local community dependency on renewable resources. It does however,require a certain sense of injustice by some, in attempting to convince others to the contrary. The data is there for all to see, one must only place aside their prejudices and/or fears for re-election to come to similar conclusions. Gentlemen, I urge you to do so. The public has done its work in presenting you an opportunity to protect this amazingly beautiful area for future generations. Will you protect, for those unborn, the bare windswept ridges incapable of providing the fastness, diversity or security necessary to purpertrate the selfsustaining, cost efficient wildlands of Scotchman for years into the future or will you preserve, in its rugged magnificence, an ecological island of unending vitality of challenge, an enduring resource of wildlife and wildlands that will remain home to creatures large and small long after our names are but memories? The choice is now yours.

In addition to my testimony, I am including into the record a copy of a recent Audubon Magazine article entitled: 'Mining: Wilderness Advocates Hold Trump Card At Scotchman Peak'.

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Mining: Wilderness Advocates Hold Trump Card at Scotchman's Peak

BILLO COMOLA and Cesar Hernandez are mineral company executives who appreciate the irony of their situation.

Comola, a stocky ex-Marine and former president of the Montana Wilderness Association, recently quit a job with a wood-stove shop to pursue a long-standing ambition to become an aircraft mechanic, and he is now attending vocational school.

Hernandez is a laborer in a Louisiana-Pacific sawmill at Trout Creek, in northwestern Montana, near the wild Cabinet Mountains. He works from five in the evening until two in the morning on the "green chain," yanking freshly sawn lumber away from the saw blade.

"There's not much to it," Hernandez says of his job. "But that's good. It gives me time to think about the company."

"The company" is Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining Company, Inc., of which Hernandez is president and Comola is an officer. It is to mining companies what Hernandez and Comola are to executives. Not to be confused with Northwest Citizens for Wilderness, a conservation group, the mining company was formed in 1975 in an effort to assure low-impact development of copper and silver deposits within the Cabinet Mountains' pristine Scotchman's Peak area.

The group settled upon a unique method. They filed mining claims on the property and announced their intention to develop those claims using primarily picks and shovels, rather than the large-scale, disruptive methods preferred by the corporate giants.

Northwest Citizens for Wilderness have been called environmental obstructionists, but Comola and Hernandez insist that their corporation is a legitimate mining company. They say they will prove that pick-and-shovel technology is a feasible method of mineral extraction, providing, at the same time, maximum protection for the environment. If, however, their pursuit of wilderness designation for the Scotchman's Peak area proves fruitful and mineral exploration is forbidden there after midnight, December 31, 1983, the executives' hearts would not be broken. That, at least, was their position before a $3 million offer from a major mining company threw a monkey wrench into their plans.

Comola and Hernandez, acting independently of each other, moved into the conservative logging and mining community of Noxon, Montana, about a decade ago. Both were Vietnam veterans looking for blue sky, clean water, wild country, and a place to settle and raise a family. They found "everything we'd ever dreamed of" in the rugged Cabinet Mountains. The two became friends when they discovered a mutual desire to keep the area from being overrun by development.

The Cabinet Mountains are among the few truly wild and remote ranges remaining in the continental United States. Cougar, mountain goats, elk, moose, bear, and raptors are found in great numbers among the old-growth cedars and pine. The Scotchman's Peak area is part of the small, isolated habitat of an estimated twenty grizzly bears—the smallest of six remaining grizzly ecosystems outside Alaska and, according to the experts, the area where grizzlies face their greatest threat of extirpation.

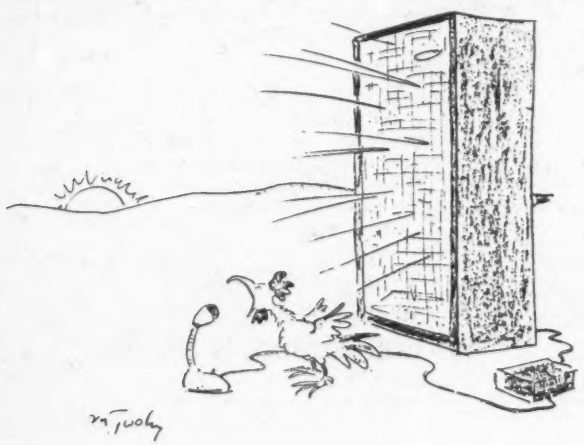
In 1975, the U.S. Geological Survey disclosed a finding that conservationists had long feared: the Scotchman's Peak area also contained the potential for "big things" in the way of minerals.

Comola and Hernandez reacted to the news quickly and quietly. They went to the Sanders County Courthouse to research mineral claims that had been filed in the area and discovered, much to their joy, that claims in the Scotchman's Peak area held by Bear Creek Mining, a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper, had lapsed. So Northwest Citizens for Wilderness—Comola, Hernandez, and similarly committed friends—started a mining company. They set off into the forest and, following legal procedures, located their mining claims.

The process of staking a mineral claim, which gives the claimant de facto private property rights, as well as rights to explore for and develop minerals, is a simple one, thanks to the archaic Mining Law of 1872. It is arguably the most lucrative of the federal giveaway programs, and requires less paperwork than is necessary to obtain food stamps. Claims can be filed on much of the public land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, at a cost of approximately $11 per twenty-acre claim. Once a claim is staked—its boundaries physically marked—and the filing fee paid, the claimant has only to spend and duly record $100 in improvements, cash or labor, each year for the claim to remain valid.

Shortly after Northwest Citizens had staked and filed their claims, they got confirmation of another sort that Scotchman's Peak probably contained a wealth of minerals. The American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) filed over Northwest Citizens' claims.

"They claim-jumped us," Comola told a convention of the Montana Wilderness Association, once Northwest Citizens had decided to make their activities known. He described how he and Hernandez, with their faithful



donkey, Arsco, carrying their gear, had hiked the Scotchman's Peak area, carefully staking their claims. Fortunately, they were watching from ground level the day ASARCO helicopters dropped six-foot lengths of PVC pipe—a claim-staking method Comola called "highly illegal." He showed several lengths of pipe he had picked up, as well as photographs of helicopters dropping pipes. The audience cheered.

"The shock was tremendous," Comola recalls. "ASARCO immediately sent two attorneys to the convention, and a short while later a company geologist came to our house to see if our papers [on the claims] were valid. Once ASARCO discovered our claims were legitimate, they withdrew theirs."

ASARCO, however, refiled some of its claims, perhaps hoping that the intricacies of the mining law could be used in the company's favor, or that a protracted legal battle would bankrupt Northwest Citizens and force the conservationists out of the mining business. But the small mining company had an ace in the hole. An attorney from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, donated his services.

Northwest Citizens went to court in an effort to force the Bureau of Land Management to recognize their claims over ASARCO's, but the case never came to trial. ASARCO later withdrew its claims.

Northwest Citizens were puzzled, because it is highly unusual for a mining company to abandon claims. But the withdrawal didn't end the contest. Several other mining companies have filed claims all around Northwest Citizens' claims. And an ASARCO geologist left that company and joined a newly established firm, Far West Exploration, which promptly filed over Northwest Citizens' claims once again. Faced with litigation, the firm asked to settle out of court.

BECAUSE OF THEIR background as environmentalists, as well as their commitment to pick-and-shovel methods of mineral location and development, Comola and Hernandez began to be seen by much of the logging and mining community as the worst kind of obstructionists. Unemployment in the Cabinet Mountains has reached more than 30 percent, and resentment against anyone whose activities might be depriving a corporation of the opportunity to provide jobs runs high. Occasional bullets were fired into Hernandez's van. A car resembling Comola's was rolled over a steep bank and destroyed. Com-

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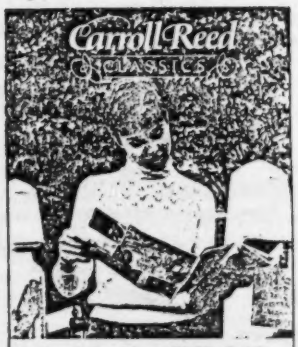

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ola was fired from two jobs. Hernandez needed help from a federal agency to get his sawmill job. An attempt was made to dynamite Comola's home.

Shortly after the dynamite incident, Comola was elected president of the Montana Wilderness Association and moved to Helena. But Hernandez, who still lives in the area, says his mailbox remains a target.

"They still tear them down," he says. "I've lost thirteen mailboxes so far, although they seem to last longer these days. That's how I gauge public sentiment—by how long my mailbox lasts."

The harassment prompted Comola and Hernandez to spread the responsibility. Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining Company was incorporated, with a seven-member board of directors to oversee the claims. The corporation's bylaws allow for only low-impact development, and the board of directors continues to promote the designation of an 87,000-acre Scotchman's Peak Wilderness.

"Wilderness is mandatory to preserve the integrity of the area," Comola says.

The apparent conflict between Northwest Citizens' wilderness advocacy and their declared intention to mine has resulted in scrutiny by federal agencies that regulate mining.

"The crux of the whole thing is whether it's economical," district ranger Ron Humphrey said. "We'll have to make that decision at some point and decide whether to allow mining. Right now we're dealing with them like any bona fide mining company."

In the midst of the continuing barrage of problems, however, a letter to Cesar Hernandez changed the whole picture. The letter was an offer from Chevron Minerals—$3 million for development rights to Northwest Citizens' claims.

Northwest Citizens said no. But the offer, coming when the band of environmentalists was ragged and weary, was tempting. The board of directors decided to enter into negotiations.

Besides demanding more money ($950,000 in bonuses, $100,000 per year while production lasts, and smelter royalties), the little mining company attached several unorthodox provisions to its version of a lease agreement. Under Northwest Citizens' terms, Chevron would have to "cooperate fully" by endorsing wilderness designation for Scotchman's Peak by March 1, 1983, and attempting to persuade the American Mining Congress and other mineral lobby groups to join in support for wilderness designation. (Wilderness status

would mean an end to mineral exploration at the end of 1983, but previously discovered minerals could still be developed.) The company would be required to match, dollar for dollar, private donations to two funds: a wildlife research fund administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and an environmental protection trust fund administered by the Montana Wilderness Association.

Chevron, to date, has not accepted any lease offer. Last spring an attorney for the company said that management was studying the proposal, and comment would therefore be inappropriate. According to Comola, company officials have said that Chevron will not voluntarily initiate environmental protection programs.

"Why can't mining companies take grizzlies, other wildlife, and recreation into consideration?" Hernandez counters. "We're in the vanguard of mining companies relating to the community. We realize there's other life besides ourselves."

Community leaders and environmentalists have called the Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining Company offer everything from "commendable" to "a sell-out."

"Even though there are some safeguards on the environment, there still will be large-scale impacts on the community if Chevron opens a mine," said Tony Jewett, a former coordinator of Northwest Citizens for Wilderness. He also complained that the trust funds would be inadequate for the amount of research needed.

But Comola and Hernandez would like to resolve the uncertainty over wilderness status for Scotchman's Peak, and they see Chevron's potential cooperation as a possible clincher. They view the wildlife and environmental trust funds—without which they will not lease the property—as models for future development. And both would welcome the opportunity to get free of the court battles and harassment their mining venture has brought.

"I've got to live my life," Hernandez says. "This thing has been a full-time job."

Whether Chevron ultimately develops the claims, or whether Northwest Citizens go in with picks and shovels, the Scotchman's Peak incident will remain unique in mining history. It will be remembered as one of those rare occasions, in the game of federal mining claims and leases, when conservationists held the trump card.

—Jim Robbins

Birds of a feather.

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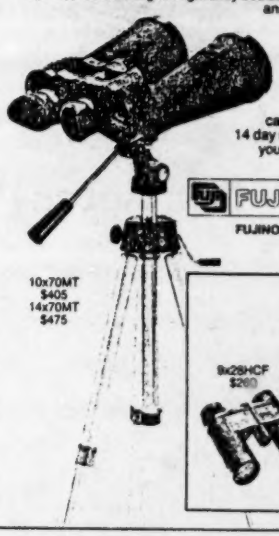

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STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM R. MOORE, CONDON, MONT.

Dr. MOORE. Thank you, Senator Melcher. My name is Bud Moore. I was born in the shadow of the Bitterroot Mountains at Florence, Mont., in 1917, and since then, have trapped furs, guided hunters, logged, fought fires, and worked for the Forest Service in Montana, Idaho, and, several other Western States and in Washington, D.C. During my lifetime, I have participated in achieving legal protection for many wilderness areas, and have also helped open millions of acres of pristine country to motorized use. Where wild country once seemed endless, we are now joined together to decide the destiny of those remnants of land that remain undiscovered by the bulldozer, the auto, and the saw. Montanans are custodians of over 5 million acres of these lands, and we, therefore, shoulder a responsibility to allocate their future to wise and considerate use.

I support the idea of solving the legally entangled RARE II program by congressional action, so long as it's based on knowledge of the values and capabilities inherent in each of these remaining tracts of land. But for the Congress to arbitrarily declare the RARE II inventory sufficient is unacceptable to me. If those inventories were not well done, and some of them were not, then, no congressional manadate can make the bad ones good. Nonetheless, we don't need a whole new inventory. Instead, before deciding, we need to assemble and weight the detailed knowledge of the many people who understand the values inherent in each tract of land. Decision information should come from those who know and use the land, and the recent work done by the lumber industry and conservation organization to propose boundaries for the Clearwater-Monture addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness provides a landmark example for us all. I can't emphasize this too much.

Since application of this example to other areas cannot be done well in haste, I recommend that the Congress allow time and insist that informed people representing present and future potential uses join together and locate the boundaries, something like was done at the Clearwater-Monture. I'm saying that let's get on with it, but let's not get in so big a hurry that we can't do things like this.

Now, in addition to this opening statement, I have specific data here on a few areas that I am familiar with. First off, the Swan Front Wilderness, proposed wilderness, has been mentioned here several times, and this area is much studied, has high wilderness value and I have in my report here several details that will help establish these boundaries.

Then, I go quickly to the Clearwater-Monture, which I understand real well, and I, again, compliment the timber industry and the wilderness people for working out a joint solution.

Then, to the Great Burn. The Great Burn Wilderness has been testified and covered pretty well, and I would just like to add to the values there that there is a tremendous history of archaeological values in the Great Burn. Including old Indian trails and things that should be preserved.

So, then, you mentioned that the Lee Metcalf Study Areas were going to be considered here, and I have considerable knowledge and

information on the Sapphire Mountains, but it was my understanding, Senator, that we wouldn't handle those here, so I didn't put detailed knowledge in my statement, but with your permission, I will submit a supplementary statement immediately setting forth the information I have on the Sapphire Mountains that will help.

Senator MELCHER. We would appreciate that.

Dr. MOORE. Then, so, what I have here on these three areas that I mentioned, the Clearwater-Monture, the Great Burn, and the Swan Front, is specific information intending to help you decide between wilderness boundaries and so on. Now, one more thing—one more favor I would like to ask. A young resident of the Swan Valley asked my to present to you, for the record, a statement by him and if I may, I will enter that into the record here.

Senator MELCHER. Surely, it will be made part of this record.

Dr. MOORE. All right, thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Moore follows:]

July, 1983

THE PROPOSED MONTANA WILDERNESS BILL

(Statement presented by William R. (Bud) Moore at hearings conducted by the U. S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Missoula, Montana, July 5, 1983.)

My name is Bud Moore. I was born in the shadow of the Bitterroot Mountains at Florence, Montana in 1917 and since then have trapped furs, guided hunters, logged, fought fires and worked for the Forest Service in Montana and Idaho, in several other western states and in Washington, D. C. During my lifetime I have participated in achieving legal protection for many wilderness areas and have also helped open millions of acres of pristine country to motorized use. Where wild country once seemed endless, we are now joined together to decide the destiny of those remnants of land that remain undiscovered by the bulldozer, the auto and the saw. Montanans are custodians of over 5 million acres of these lands and we, therefore, shoulder responsibility to allocate their future to wise and considerate use.

I support the idea of solving the legally-entangled RARE II program by congressional action based on knowledge of the values and capabilities inherent in each of these remaining tracts of wild land. But for the Congress to arbitrarily declare the RARE II inventories sufficient is unacceptable to me. If those inventories were not well done, and many of them were not, then no congressional mandate can make the bad ones good. Nonetheless, we don't need a whole new inventory. Instead, before deciding, we need to assemble and weigh the detailed knowledge of the many people who understand the values inherent in each tract of land. Decision information should come from those who know and use the land and the recent work done by the lumber industry and conservation organizations to propose boundaries for the Clearwater-Monture addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness provides a landmark example for us all. Since application of the Clearwater-Monture example to other areas in Montana cannot be done well in haste, I recommend that the Congress allow time and insist that informed people representing present and future potential uses join together and locate the boundaries between the lands to be classified as wilderness and those where other multiple use incompatible with wilderness are to be allowed. Let's not rush this land-based process. After all, our decisions will affect, for better or worse, generations of people to come.

The details that follow are intended to help define boundaries between lands best suited to wilderness and those to be released for other multiple uses on several tracts of RARE II lands well-known by me.

The Swan Front

During the RARE II process that portion of the Swan Front from the Lolo-Flathead Forest boundary north to include the Lion Creek drainage was studied by me and other residents of the Swan Valley. A report of our findings and recommendations has been furnished to Montana's congressional delegation and additional copies can be

printed from originals in our files. The Forest Service gives the area's wilderness values a high rating. Further attention was focused on the area during preparation of the Plan for the Flathead National Forests whose preferred alternative allocates the area of high wilderness attributes to dispersed recreation which directs a roadless type of management but falls short of protecting the area's wild values from damage by mining or extraction of gas and oil. I therefore recommend the area shown in the Flathead Plan as dispersed recreation be designated as Wilderness and added to the existing Bob Marshall Wilderness. Similar wilderness values are present further north from Lion Creek to and including Jewel Basin but I do not have enough detailed information to suggest boundaries. There are, however, a number of people qualified to do that. (See map attached).

Clearwater-Monture

This area has a long history of wilderness-type use and its wildness has in recent years been encroached upon by logging activities around its perimeter. It includes several major entrances to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and is seen as a valuable asset to the recreation industry and many individuals. Pyramid Lumber Co. of Seeley Lake, Montana also considers some of the area's forests as an important source of wood products for their sawmill. During RARE II the Forest Service recommended some of the area be added to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I have long known the area and in 1982 spent several days reassessing its many values and studying the location of feasible wilderness boundary. Since then I have used my findings to help further the study done jointly by members of the Bob Marshall Alliance, Champion Plywood and Pyramid Lumber Company. Though my field conclusions, based on land capabilities, differ slightly from those of the foregoing group, I can support their joint agreement which I consider to be a fine example of allocating the destiny of undeveloped land. My personal conclusions could, however, be made available to the Congress at any time.

The Great Burn

I trapped furs in the heart land of the Great Burn forty seven years ago and can substantiate its many and varied wilderness values. Since I am not familiar with the penetration of roads on the area's exterior, I cannot, without further field study, recommend precise boundaries between wilderness and lands of other uses but would refer the Congress to the Wilderness Institute, School of Forestry, University of Montana for several studies dealing with details of the Great Burn.

These studies identify traditional values of wilderness but overlook several features that make the area special and I want to mention these. The area is rich in archeological values and traces of old Indian Trails can yet be seen in places along the Montana-Idaho boundary. While prospecting for gold as a youth, I found a fine indian spear point beneath the cliffs of Pilot Knob. An important indian trail branched from the Lolo Trail at Lolo Hot Springs, led past Pilot Knob across the head of the Crooked Fork, past Blacklead and rejoined the Lolo Trail at Cayuse Saddle.

Early-day European pioneers followed and improved these trails. Graves, cabin ruins and abandoned mineral prospects suggest an uncommon story of men and mountains. If researched and documented, the history of the Blacklead Prospect District would in itself add much lore to an already fascinating wilderness.

The Great Burn is a fine wild area and I will help the Congress and local people all I can to establish appropriate boundaries.

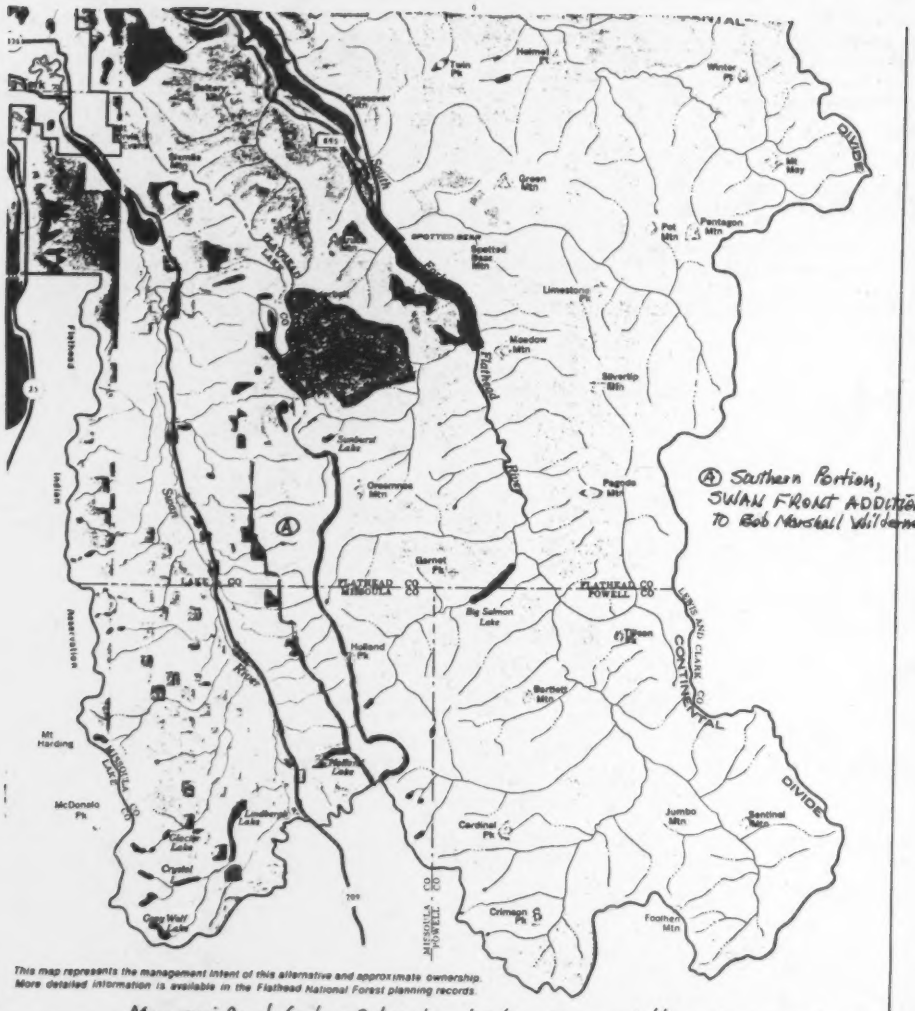
The Sapphire Mountains

Because this area was included in the late Senator Metcalf's Wilderness Study Act, I understand it won't be considered during this hearing. However, when the time comes to consider the future of the Sapphires, I can contribute considerable knowledge of the area.

My wife, Janet, and I consider it a great honor to help the Congress allocate the last of Montana's wildlands.

William R. Moore

Dr. William R. (Bud) Moore
P. O. Box 1017
Condon, Montana 59826
Phone: 406-754-2473



More specific details of boundary location are available on larger scale maps in authors files. Phone (406) 754-2473 - W. R. MOORE 7/5/83

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Mrs. Erickson.

STATEMENT OF MRS. WILLIAM ERICKSON, LIBBY, MONT.

Mrs. ERICKSON. Well, I'm not a statistician—oh, I will need the mike. I have been told my voice is soft—and I'm not a statistician nor a technologist, nor a representative of a vested interest. I'm only one of the public to whom these public lands belong, and were legislated. It seems to me that we need an ethical and an emotional concept or context, too, in this question, and probably that's my purpose here. We face two choices, I think. Is the first choice a materialism from the days of the industrial revolution that knows only what the eye can see and the hand can hold? And is the alternative choice a commitment to the preservation of other forms of life about us? We are fast approaching a last confrontation between arrogant man and the primordial nature which man has exploited to produce what we carelessly call civilization. Even now with comparatively little left of man's natural resources, too many of us believe that using it up as quickly as possible will give us more of the good life and its concomitant waste: goodies, like TV games, raunchy movies, more kinds of "big baby buggies" as Philip Wylie called them. Fat with the fat of the land. We call our greeds "needs." We hardly know enough science or history to be aware that we are cutting ourselves off at the knees if we were to eliminate our natural life support system.

Whether you call the Creator a Primal Source, the Big Bang or the Force or whatever, the truth is that man will never engineer the articulation of a bird's or butterfly's wing to achieve the aerodymanic skill that is far beyond men's mind. Nor can we every engineer the multiplicity of gene pools needed to achieve a single viable creature, let alone species. We can never replace or understand completely the multiplicity of cells within our own body. Therefore, Aldo Leopold can say, as a biologist in the 20th century, "In wildness which gives diversity is the preservation of man." Think of it, the miracle of the individualization, thousands of species of bees to pollinate as many different kinds of plants.

Whether one sees the Biblical story of the Gall of Man literally or metaphorically, it is still man's pride, his arrogance that is his prime weakness. His pride doesn't permit him to see that there is an ethical underpinning for land economics before we talk about land management, and if man doesn't see the ethics in the conservation of his habitat, he will destroy his own life-building blocks.

I'm sorry, I had something real good about Jewel Basin in the northern Swan Crest. There were two things we read in last week's newspaper. Jewel Basin is one of the two most beautiful places in the world, and it truly is, and I wanted to mention the Cabinet Addition, also, which preserves the Gold Valley. Help us remember Eisenhower, whose last official words to us were, "Beware the military industrial complex," and I guess our present design, I think, is a good one with all our natural resources, plants, and animals. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Erickson follows:]

P.O.Box 645
Libby, Mt. 59923
July 1, 1983

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation
Federal Building
Missoula, Mt.

Dear Sirs:

I am not a statistician,nor a technologist, nor a representative of a vested interest. I am one of the public to whom these public lands were legislated. I hazard this conclusion about our choices: Is the one choice a materialism that knows only what the eye can see and the hand can hold? And is the alternative choice, a commitment to preservation of the other forms of life about us? We are fast approaching a last confrontation between arrogant man and the primordial Nature which man has exploited to produce what we carelessly call civilization. Even now, with comparatively little left of man's resources, millions of us believe that using it up as quickly as possible will give more of us more of "the good life"and its concomitant waste: goodies like T.V. games, raunchy movies, more kinds of "big baby buggies" as Philip Wylie called them. Fat with the fat of the land, we call our greeds-Uneeds". We hardly know enough science or history to be aware that we are cutting ourselves off whem we eliminate our support system.

British historian and teacher Keith Thomas: " There was in the period from 1500-1800 in England (and I add, in other European countries as well) a growing conflict between the importance of nature in our lives and the materialistic foundations of human society. . . "

Whether you call the Creator a Primal Source, the Big Bang or the Force, the truth is that man will never engineer the articulation of a bird's or a butterfly's wing to achieve an aerodynamic skill far beyond man's mind. Nor can we engineer the multiplicity of gene pools to achieve a single viable creature, let alone species; we cannot replace the multiplicity of cells within oour own body. We are still in the process of discovering more mysteries about them. Therefore Aldo Leopold can say, as a biologist in the 20th century: "In wildness is the preservation (which gives diversity) of man." Thousands of species of bees to pollinate as many different kinds of plants.

Whether one sees the Biblical story of the Fall of Man literally or metaphorically, it still is Man's Pride Arrogance, in his own knowledge

that is his prime weakness. His pride doesn't permit him to see that there is an "ethical underpinning for land economics before we talk about land management." If man doesn't see the ethics of conservation of his habitat, he will destroy his own life-building and maintenance blocks. We need the humility of biologist Donald Culross Peattie:" I keep a piece of olive root on my desk. . . to keep me humble as a scientist, and reverent, as a man, because there are no two olive roots alike, no two peas, no two anything alike ." This is the miracle of individuazation-- necessary to all life.

We see the graphic results of a materialistic, purely mechanical approach in our slums-- no awareness of nature, no respect for the ideal, and so no respect for anything else: wanting only material"kicks", desecrating good things that good people try to provide, these amoral cast-offs kill wantonly like the overcrowded laboratory rats. Witness the rash of destruction of public property in National parks and forest, the torture and killing of wild life--- also <u>our</u> public property.

Can't we slow the race to use up what little is left of public resources? As of last fall, there were 1000 applications for leases on wilderness areas. Mr. Watt says that no lease application can be denied solely to protect wilderness characteristics. However-"designated wilderness areas contain <u>only</u> 1.% percent of the potentially producible oil and <u>only</u> 1.22 percent of the potentially producible gas. Areas still under consideration for wilderness designation contain only 3. percent of the producible oil and 2.4 of producible gas." Furthermore, "hundreds of millions of acres are available to the oil, gas corporations on opne federal, state and private lands. On <u>federal lands</u>, more than 118 million acres are already under lease. "

Jewel Basin, in the Northern Swan Crest, is "one of the two most beautiful spots in the world" we read in last week's news; another story reported that Flathead National Forest refused twice appeals to exclude exploratory drilling from the Jewel. Who's in charge? Industrial expediency, or human values other than the dollar? Look again at Butte, at Northern Appalachia. Help us, Ike Eisenhower, whose last offical words to us were: "Beware of the military-industrial complex". Is it too much to ask for exhilarating renewal of the spirit to be found in some raw land big enough to support some families of badgers, even skunks? More assurance of a good life in this than in plastic dresses, fine furniture. Blaise Pascal wrote: "What man needs first, is a reason for his existence." Let's keep some of the original Design. It's a good one.

Olga Ericksen

STATEMENT OF JEFF GARDNER, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. GARDNER. Gentlemen, my name is Jeff Gardner, I am a citizen of Montana. Presently a student of journalism and natural history at the U of M, an artist and an avid outdoorsman.

Although not born here, I have lived in the mountains all my life. They have become a part of me, a part of my lifestyle. I speak for myself today but I know I'm not alone in my views. Frankly speaking, there are people out there who like to go out in the woods and not see anybody. I mean, there are a lot of us that just don't like to deal with the present situation of people. As the recreation boom increases, more and more people are using these lands. Gets to be out there that you even begin to cuss the airplanes that fly overhead.

I'm here to testify on the Bitterroot National Forest and I chose this area because it represents an example of what's taking place all across the State. A growing population, growing demands, and I think that the Forest Service is doing a good job. They have assessed the areas quite well, and I believe those that they think should be adopted should be adopted, and those that should be released, should be released and everybody can have a little bit of everything. I think in the long run, though, Montana and this country would benefit more if these areas are preserved. They not only shoulder a population of wildlife and give places to recreate, but also protect our important watershed.

They way I see it, there is a lot of land out there opened up for multiple use and a lot more that's going to be turned over. I think, through proper management plans and policies, these lands could be used must more efficiently and could satisfy those who want to develop them. Anybody who knows Montana knows its history. Haven't we learned anything from Anaconda and Butte? Presently, there are various components of the economy represented in this State. We don't need to depend on these primary export base components, and, well, all I have to say is let's keep the treasures in the Treasure State. Let's save what we can save right now. Perhaps an act of Congress later on down the line can open up some of these marginal areas for needs, if it comes down to that, and let's not make Montana the big scar country. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES A. CLOUGH, PRESIDENT, ROD & GUN CLUB, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. CLOUGH. Senator Melcher, members of the committee. My name is Charles Clough. I am president of the Libby Rod & Gun Club. We have been treated to the spectacle of bureaucracy at its worst. Over the past decade, we have seen different administrations elicit public comment and spend millions of tax dollars, much time, and great effort in what have apparently become abortive attempts to determine the disposition of public roadless lands. Both the RARE I and RARE II processes have preceded us, and it now appears that the present administration wants to disregard these tremendous expenditures of time and money and, in effect, grease the skids of economic expediency.

It is regrettable, particularly on the Kootenai National Forest, where the local timber industry appears to be scaling down its op-

erations, that such a precipitous proposal should be made to throw the remaining roadless areas open to industrial interests. At a time when many local people are exploring avenues for the development of a more recreation-based economy, the Federal Government has set out on a course of exploitation that would favor industries that are so vulnerable to the vagaries of our country's fiscal guagmire.

We, as a hunting and fishing organization, are particularly concerned that many of these roadless tracts are refuges for both wildlife and man, and that as these pristine lands are diminished so, too, is the quality of life for both man and beast.

We are presently experiencing a substantial increase in roadless recreation on the Kootenai. An obvious example is the visitor use in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, which increased over 100 percent from the summer of 1981 to the summer of 1982.

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is being subjected to pressures from all sides and from many different interests. The mining interest industry, with its exploratory drilling, is making a very direct ingress upon the Cabinets, while the timber industry, in concert with the U.S. Forest Service, is much more subtle in its encroachment on the wilderness. The Forest Service pays lip service to the concept of maintaining the integrity of the Cabinets as a refuge for an existing grizzly bear population.

On one hand, the Forest Service, as required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has severely limited recreational access to many areas of the Cabinets as mitigation for the incursions of mining industry. On the other, the same agency moves rapidly forward with plans to road and log areas immediately adjacent to the wilderness boundary.

In light of the increase on economic, recreational, and wildlife demands, it seems only prudent that favorable consideration should be given to all proposed roadless area additions to the tiny and vulnerable Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

Following the same logic, we favor the formal designation of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area to include all roadless additions. We are particularly concerned with the southern "A" section which encompasses Pillick Ridge. This section is an established wildlife travel corridor for species including deer, elk, mountain sheep, and grizzly bear. It offers good hunting opportunity for elk and mule deer, as well as an extensive and scenic ridgeline route for hikers and backpackers.

Less than one-fourth of the designated timber-producing land in this area can be harvested economically. It is a sad commentary on the concept of sustained yield timber harvesting, as administered by the U.S. Forest Service, if the timber industry is forced to depend on the remaining roadless areas to maintain its operation.

We feel it's ill-advised to release, without further, careful consideration, any of the remaining roadless areas on the Kootenai National Forest. Such an indiscriminate move would only serve to offer short-term solutions for very long-range problems. We reject the idea that the national forests and their resources should become the sacrificial lambs offered up in the desperate attempt to balance a run-away national budget or to prop up industries faltering because of deflated markets.

Many of us who call the Kootenai home would like to see a healthy, diverse economy which incorporates a strong recreational component, not an economy based solely on the caprice of one or two large industrial corporations. We, therefore, stand strongly opposed to the categorical release of RARE II lands from the roadless designation. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, all.

STATEMENT OF HOWARD HURST, KALISPELL, MONT.

Mr. HURST. My name is Howard Hurst, Kalispell, Mont. I'm retired. Having reached the senior station in life where the problems of raising and educating a family have been solved, my concerns are now for the future quality of life of my grandchildren. Family influence can largely control there moral values, but external factors will vitally affect their economic welfare.

In June, the Census Bureau reported there were nearly 234 million Americans. An increase of more than 2 million since 1981, a jump of 6,675,000 since the 1980 census. As the land supports us, each new individual places additional demand on our resources. Restricting land to single purpose use prevents responsible productive development. It creates scarcities, increasing dependence on foreign supplies adding to costs and inflationary pressures. The heritage we would leave my grandchildren from scarcity of resources is more inflation, fewer jobs, additional poor and a lower standard of living.

For example, restricting timber supply adversely affects and will eliminate some small business manufactruers of wood products that benefit their large competitors who own large tracts of their own timber. Scarcity increases the value of the timber. Demands supports higher product prices. The consumer pays as these costs flow into the market.

Future exploration and technology will reveal more resource potential, such as the energy possibilities uncovered recently in the Flathead. Adding single purpose lands will deny this opportunity to future generations.

Man's use of the earth's natural resources is the foundation of his existence. All great civilizations develop because of their effective use of the earth's resources, but some decline because they did not care for the land.

Today we know how to care for the land. Multiple use land management has been scientifically perfected. Any activitiy, under multiple use, considers the environmental conservation and restoration aspects.

Considering our population growth, potential inflationary consequences created by scarcities, our national defense and welfare obligations, and that political systems rise and fall based upon the economic welfare of its citizens, I respectfully submit that all RARE II lands be returned to scientifically controlled multiple use, consistent with this recognized principle of a free society, the greatest job for the greatest number. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JOHN W. BRINKERHOFF, CONSULTING FORESTER, CANYON LOGGING CO.

Mr. BRINKERHOFF. I'm John Brinkerhoff, consulting forester for Canyon Logging Co., Superior Buildings Co., and other small loggers.

I was born and raised in the Flathead Valley area and have lived here for 60 years and made my living from jobs working with the timber resources of Montana. I am recommending to you as Senators from Montana to vote on favoring the RARE II as proposed now, so that management of the concerned lands may proceed under multiple use concepts. The final solution of the RARE II issue will release planned timber sales in some roadless areas which are badly needed now as the National economics recovery is emerging from our recent depression. We have more than adequate areas of wilderness lands set aside which generate mostly single use type areas. Jobs based on Montana's resources are the basis of our economy providing people a basis for living here and a sound tax base for local, State, and National government financing.

I recommend your vote and influence be directed at resolution of the RARE II bill. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Jack King.

Mr. MAGONE. Jack isn't here.

Senator MELCHER. Larry Magone.

STATEMENT OF LARRY MAGONE, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, RESOURCES, PLUM CREEK, INC.

Mr. MAGONE. Good morning, I am Larry Magone, assistant vice president of Resources for Plum Creek, Inc. of Columbia Falls, Mont. I have been employed as a forester for Plum Creek for 19 years and, except for military service, have lived in Montana my entire life. During this time I have both worked and recreated in many of the RARE II areas in western Montana, especially those in northwestern Montana.

We believe it both timely and essential for Congress to develop, consider and enact statewide legislation which speaks to the entire question of wilderness designation within the national forests of Montana.

In Montana, Plum Creek pays its 1500 direct employees $36 million a year to produce 300 million board feet of lumber, 200 million square feet of plywood and 90 thousand square feet of fiberboard. That's enough to build about 30 thousand homes and enough cabinets and furniture to go a long way toward furnishing them.

Historically, Plum Creek has harvested about one-half of the timber it uses on national forest land, although during the past several years the trend has been a decline in percentage of national forest timber and an increase in percentage of private timber. As I'm sure you are aware, this trend is not unique to Plum Creek but has occurred statewide. It has been due to several factors. One of which being the continued uncertainty over wilderness designation. As I'm also sure you are aware, this trend cannot continue because the private lands cannot sustain this increased harvesting pressure.

With regard to specific national forests, we support the Flathead and the Kootenai's 1979 RARE II recommendations and the Kootenai's proposed forest plan treatment of the Ten Lakes Wilderness study areas. On the Lolo and the Bitterroot, we endorse the Inland Forest Resource Council's position.

Our philosophy has been and will continue to be that areas considered truly unique and deserving of wilderness protection by the majority of the public should, indeed, be designated wilderness. On those acres not designated wilderness, we strongly support the management of all the other multiple uses with an eye toward the greatest good for the greatest number. This doesn't mean, I might add, that we support complete development of all nonwilderness lands as some folks would have you believe.

We encourage the Montana Delegation to act quickly to prepare a statewide wilderness bill which includes sufficiency and permanent release language and request that the Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee be supportive of this legislation.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the subcommittee today. Thanks for being here and for listening.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Glenn Conklin.

VOICE. Senator, Jack King asked if he could donate his time to Mr. Conklin since he wasn't able to make it. Would this be all right?

Senator MELCHER. Yes.

STATEMENT OF GLENN CONKLIN, F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

Mr. CONKLIN. Thank you, Senator. I'm Glenn Conklin, rancher, farmer, forester for Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. and out-of-doors sportsman. I live on the north end of Lake Blaine and the bottom of the so-called Swan Crest.

The current and proposed use, and I felt it very important that you have a visual display of this, it's hard to understand verbally. I set up two maps. The attached red poster or the current and proposed use of the Flathead National Forest as is shown on this map and this graph. The attached red posterboard is the additional ground adjacent to the Flathead National Forest that is already set aside for wilderness and recreational use. Wilderness alone at this time takes up 45.9 percent of the area. The small green areas that you see left are those portions of the forest that are left in timber protection on which the preponderance of Flathead Valley's income is derived and fees in lieu of taxes are paid. Less than 18 percent of the original forest reserve established in 1877 is still in timber production.

Wilderness advocates would like to see six more wilderness areas imposed on the areas covered by these maps. Yet, the forest plan states that 77 percent of the recreational use on the forest is in roaded areas. Over half of Flathead Valley's economy is derived from the lumber industry. Please place no more restriction on our economy or the multiple use recreational activities. Leave us the dignity to earn an honest livelihood while providing needed resources to the Nation.

In conclusion, let me address the idea that nature is a great manager of natural resources. One thing is very clear, that if man will not manage the land for his benefit, Mother Nature will give it a housecleaning of her own, and I would like to quote from Elers Koch's book—he was a one-time supervisor of the Lolo Forest—"When Mountains Roared," so that you can see nature's treatment of water, wildlife, timber, and soils clearly. Human death and property destruction also took place:

And I quote:

> We saw the remains of an elk and several deer; also a grouse hopping about with feet and feathers burned off— a pitiful sight. Men who quenched their thirst from small streams immediately became deathly sick. The pure, clear water running through miles of ashes had become a strong alkaline solution polluted by dead fish, killed by the lye.

The more wilderness we have, the more fires we will have. The more fires we have, the more resources that will be wasted. I will close with one sentence from a book on economics, and I quote, "Man, despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication and his many accomplishments, owes his existence to a 6-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains." Thank you, gentlemen.

[The material submitted by Mr. Conklin follows:]

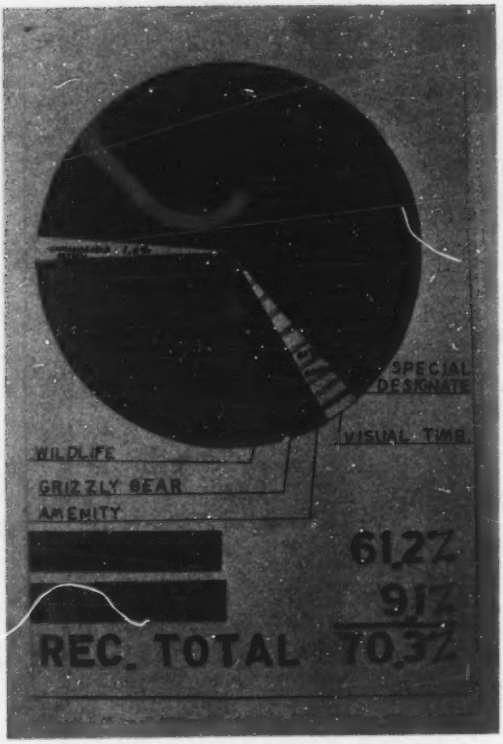
ABSTRACT

Flathead County is comprised of 3,289,609 acres. Government owns 2,569,133 acres of tnis or 78.1%. Over haif of Flathead valley's income is derived from forest products.

I am but one of the majority of people living in Flathead County depending on timber to support my family. Because Flathead National Forest contains 2,349,924 acres, most of the timber resources necessary for my families existance must come from this forest. With SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT of the Flathead National Forest set aside for RECREATION of one type or another; we can ill afford any more wilderness locally. It will create victims who otherwise wouldn't exist.

Having grown up in the mountains as a hiker, fisherman and hunter, I understand the need for setting some land aside. But for my family to continue to enjoy this area, I must also be gainfully employed.

As you look at the following pages it will become clear to you how much land has been taken out of production already. To make it understandable we will compare the Flathead National Forest present and proposed land use to the land use of my one hundred and sixty acre farm/ranch operation.



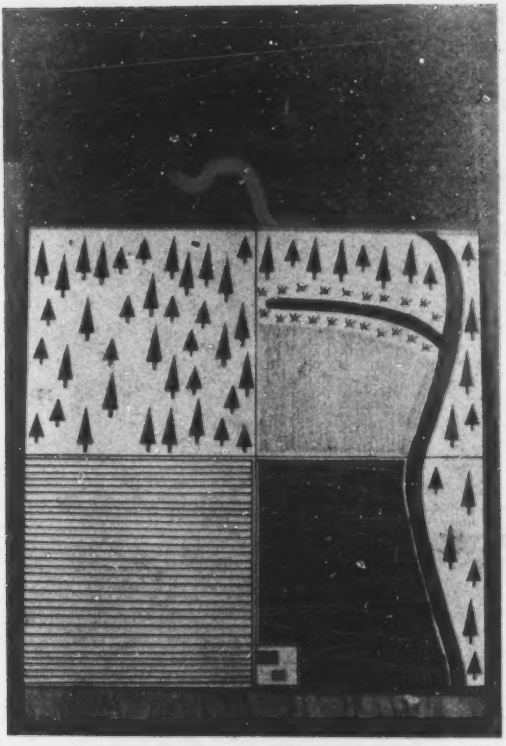
All information taken from the proposed alternative number eight of the Flathead National Forest Plan.

The color key will remain constant on all pager.

Red - Some type of recreation
Yellow - Wildlife
Blue - Grizzly
Orange - Amenity
White - Unmanagable
Green & White - Visual

As the PIE shows, 70.3% of the total forest has been or is proposed as being set aside for recreation or wildlife, leaving only 25% for the necessities of life.

Information Daily Interlake Feb. 27, 1983



On the above map, trees mean timber. Horizontal lines represent row crops. Light green - pasture, dark green - hay, blue- water riparian zone. The home site is on a white background.

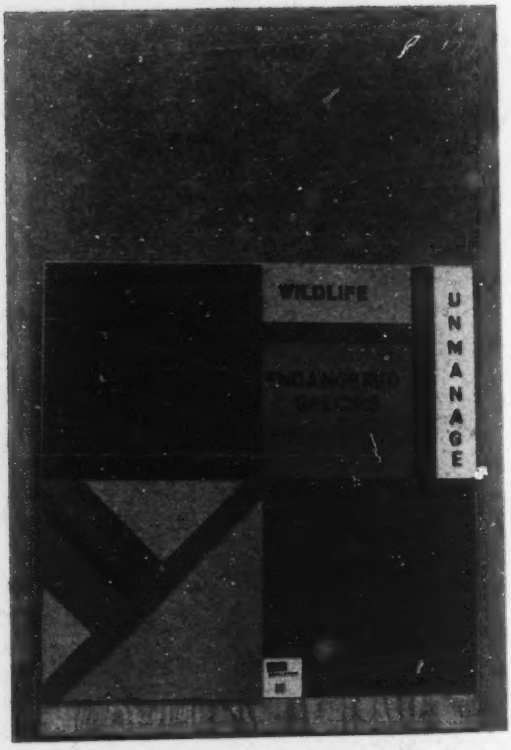
On these acres I live, support a family, pay all levels of taxes and help provide the necessities of life to this great nation; food, shelter and clotning. We also hire some seasonal help haying (neighborhood youths) and provide fishing and hunting opportunities to the community.

We run livestock, grow grain, saw a few logs, cut firewood and fence posts. An economically viable unit. How lets compare these benefits to wnat the Flathead National Forest can provide.

Flathead National Forest can provide the following on it's land base. Pay 25% gross receipts on timber sales - mineral exploration in lieu of taxes and 50% royalties on gas and oil that is sub-subsequently extracted. This is locally very important with this large an area in Federal ownership. They can provide jobs and resources to support jobs. They can improve fish and wildlife habitat. They can provide recreational activities desired by the large majority of the population. The Forest can only provide these benefits to the community and nation in areas outside of wilderness.

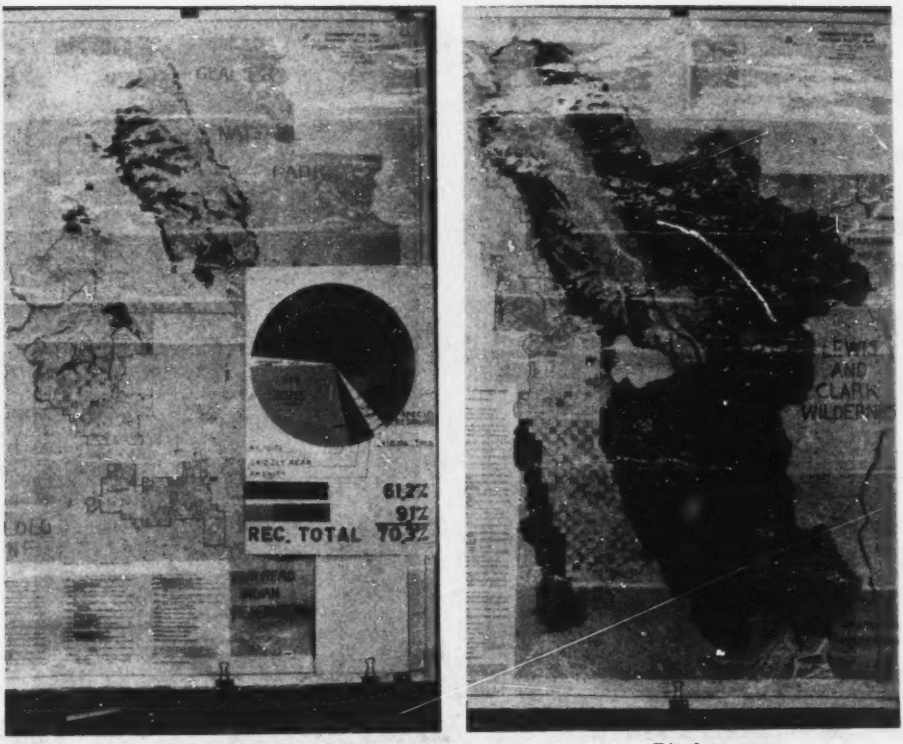
"Man despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication and his many accomplishments, owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains."

From a book on economics.

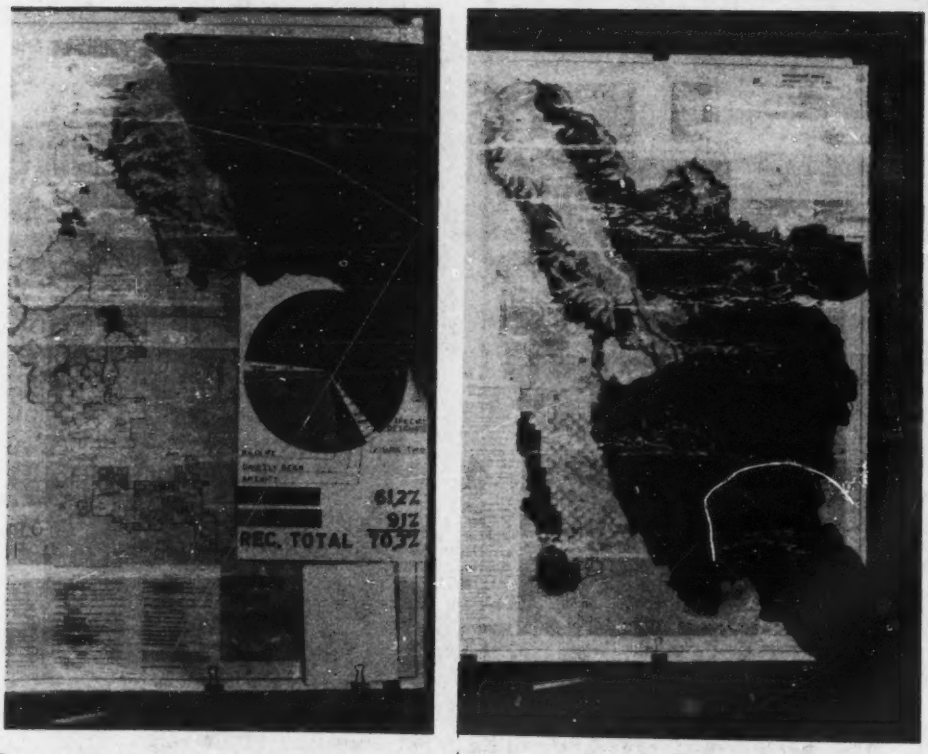


This same graph on actual and proposed land use is not to scale. Current wilderness snould take up 49.5% of tne total. The lower left hand green area scale is correct 25% of the total land base. Of this 25% left in production you will notice water, wildlife, grizzly, amenity and other people activities have first priority on the land.

In these areas we are restricted from logging to as short a working season as six weeks, in case of grizzly bears.



These two maps are of the Flathead National Forest. It is very obvious there is little land left in production. Red still being recreation and green in timber production. The Bob Marshall wilderness - Great Bear Wilderness - Mission Mountain wilderness-Jewel Basin hiking area have removed over one half the land base from production.



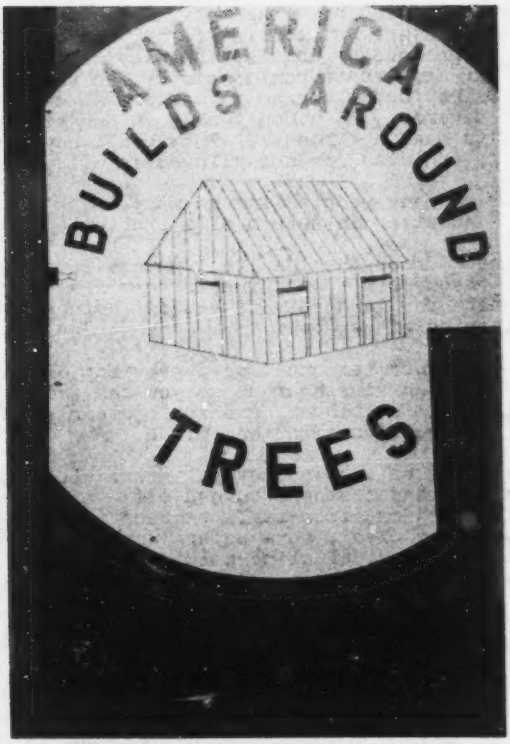
These maps include other adjacent lands set aside for recreation in this area, including Glacier National Park - Lewis and Clark Wilderness - Bob Marshall Additions.

Wilderness advocates are also studying and/or proposing six more additional wilderness areas on the area covered by these FNF maps.

THIS IS ECONOMIC INSANITY!

77% f the recreational use of FNF is in roaded areas. Why then should the remaining 23% be given over 70% of tne land for their single purpose use?

It has been said that a man who can read and won't is no better off than an illiterate who can't read. Likewise a nation with resources that won't use them is no better off than a third world nation without resources. I don't want to endure their life style or lack of it or see these conditions forced on the community as a whole.



Lumber and associated activities is tne third largest business in the United States. Building is tne largest wide spread industry in the nation. Carpenters, landscapers, excavaters, bricklayers, electricians, plumbing and heating etc. build around a sketeton of wood.

The timber dollar goes from tradesmen to professional people, equipment dealers and transportation industry. It has the single largest effect on tne nation's economy. It is what the young brides dream house is made of.

Recreation money is only that left over after the necessities of life have been paid for in all occupations.

The country needs the 25% dollars for schools and roads! The people need the jobs! The nation needs the raw materials the land can produce! Please - NO MORE WILDERNESS.

Having lived on the edge of the proposed Swan Crest Wilderness for over thirty five years, I feel it is a gigantic hoax perpertrated by three individuals. These people claim it is the economic Messiah.

We need tourist, seasonal and short as their time here is. However wilderness users are not tourists; they don't sleep in our many motels, campgrounds or hotels; they lay out under a tree. They don't eat in our fine restaurants; simply add water to freeze dried food. They don't engage in commercial entertainment, plays, theaters or taverns. They don't shop in our stores. How far would you walk to make a purchase? They don't buy gas for the next day's tour; vehicles are not allowed in wilderness.

Wilderness excludes so many people from so many uses. In reality they are creating a solution in search of a problem.

In conclusion let me address the idea that nature is a great manager of natural resources. One thing is very clear - that is if man will not manage the land for his benefit Mother Nature will give it a house cleaning of her own.

Let me quote from Elers Koch (at one time Supervisor of the Lolo Forest) booklet "When Mountains Roared" so you can see nature treatment of water, wildlife, timber, and soils clearly. Human death and property destruction also took place.

"We saw the remains of an elk and several deer; also a grouse, hopping about with feet and feathers burned off - a pitiful sight. Men who quenched their thirst from small streams immediately became deathly sick. The clear, pure water running through miles of ashes had become a strong, alkaline solution, polluted by dead fish, killed by the lye."

The more wilderness we have the more fires we will have. The more fires we have the more resources will be wasted.

PLEASE NO MORE WILDERNESS!

Glenn H. Conklin
Rancher/Farmer
Hunter/Fisherman/Camper
Forester/Woods Boss
F.H. Stoltze Land &
Lumber C.

Glenn Conklin
735 Yoeman Hall Rd.
Kalispell, Mt. 59901

Senator MELCHER. Many of your charts are in color so we'll do the best we can. The printed record will not pick up the color.

Dennis Swift.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS SWIFT, F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

Mr. SWIFT. My name is Dennis Swift, and I am employed by the F. H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. at Columbia Falls, Mont. My comments are directed primarily at the roadless areas within the Flathead National Forest.

First, I would like to endorse the immediate release of roadless areas in Montana so that the Forest Service can get on with the job of managing the lands that they have been entrusted with. I personally feel the Forest Service did an adequate job in studying the roadless areas in Montana and that the roadless area issue should not be subjected to further political football games.

I'm going to leave off the next couple of paragraphs in the interest of time, in the 3-minute limit. I am opposed to any further wilderness areas for the Flathead National Forest. This includes the proposals for the North End, the Swan Crest, and the Swan Front. Almost 50 percent of the Flathead National Forest is already in established wilderness. The Swan Crest is 60,000 acres. It straddles the northern portion of the Swan Range. It overlooks the Flathead Valley on the west side and Hungry Horse Dam and Reservoir on the east side. There are pockets of good to excellent timber and growing sites within the proposed wilderness. The biggest threat to forest management is the buffer zones that invariably are needed around wilderness. These buffer zones would seriously infringe on excellent growing sites on the Hungry Horse side, some of the best on the forest.

Buffer zones are also the biggest threat to forest management in the proposed 110,000-acre Swan Front Wilderness. This area is generally steep slope and rocky. There would be some timber loss within the drainages but buffer zones would be the controversial issue. The wilderness boundary on the west would be adjacent to the gentle slopes and bottom lands of the Swan Valley. Again, these lands are excellent growing sites and to lose them would be a severe jolt to the local industry and people of the area. It would appear that the present Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary, along the Swan divide is the natural identifiable boundary. The Swan Front is steep and rugged and it will stay that way. It doesn't need legislative protection. It has its own protection from development.

In closing, may I reiterate by saying let's get off dead center and get this issue settled. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Swift follows:]

July 5, 1983

Written Testimony on Rare II Lands Submitted For Record at Public Hearing in Missoula, Montana.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Public Lands Subcommittee. Senator John Melcher, Presiding.

My name is Dennis Swift and I am employed by the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company at Columbia Falls, Montana. My Comments are directed primarily at the Roadless areas within the Flathead National Forest.

First I would like to endorse the immediate release of roadless areas in Montana so that the Forest Service can get on with the job of managing the lands they have been entrusted with. I personally feel the Forest Service did an adequate job in studying the roadless areas in Montana, and that the roadless area issue should not be subjected to further political football games.

The Flathead National Forest has been a leading producer of timber products in Montana. It is the second largest national forest timber producer in Montana, and it is an important job source for many of the Flathead Valley and surrounding area residents. These residents, like myself, rely on timber for our jobs, and we feel that our jobs are being threatened by a continually shrinking timber base. The Forest Service endorses alternative 8 in their Forest Plan. This alternative allows timber harvesting on only 31 percent of the total Flathead Forest. Less than one-third for timber management. I feel this is a gross mismanagement of public lands, especially when dealing with a Forest having the potential for tree growth that the Flathead is capable of producing.

Part of the problem lies in the 384,000 acres of roadless lands. Some of these roadless lands should be in the timber base, but their status is unclear until Congress gets off their butts and settles the status of these roadless areas.

I am opposed to the Swan Crest and Swan Front wilderness proposals. The Swan Crest is 60,000 acres that straddles the northern portion of the Swan Range. It overlooks the Flathead Valley on the westside and Hungry Horse dam and reservoir on the east side. There are pockets of good to excellent timber and growing sites within the proposed wilderness. The biggest threat to forest management is the buffer zones that invariably are "needed" around wilderness. These buffer zones would seriously infringe on excellent growing sites on the Hungry Horse side, some of the best on the Forest.

Buffer zones are also the biggest threat to forest management in the proposed 110,000 acre Swan Front wilderness. This area is generally steep slopes and rocky. There would be some timber loss within the drainages, but buffer zones would be the controversial issue. The wilderness boundary on the west would be adjacent to the gentle slopes and bottom lands of the Swan Valley. Again, these lands are excellent growing sites and to lose them would be a severe jolt to the local industry and people of the area. It would appear that the present Bob Marshall wilderness boundary, along the Swan divide, is a natural identifiable boundary. The Swan Front is steep and rugged, and it will stay that way. It doesn't need legislative protection, it has it's own protection from development.

In closing, may I reiterate by saying, let's get off dead center and get this issue settled.

Dennis Swift

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Larry.

STATEMENT OF LARRY B. BLASING, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC TIMBER PROGRAMS, AND ACTING EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, INLAND FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL

Mr. BLASING. My name is Larry Blasing, I'm director of public timber programs and acting executive vice president for the Inland Forest Resource Council. I'm sure that I don't have to remind you fellows that this issue has been with us now for about 12 years. We have faced across the table from each other on numerous occasions and we have been involved with RARE I, RARE II, unit plans, forest plans, other wilderness hearings, and a host of other type of administrative or at least legislative hearings that were an attempt to resolve the roadless area issue. I would remind you that RARE II had the largest public input of any proposed management plan that the Forest Service has had. Some 360,000 signatures finally wound up on the Chief of the Forest Service's desk in an attempt to offer advice on how to manage these lands. At this point I feel that our industry, the public, anybody that has been involved with this issue has really been shortchanged because up to this time we have had very few decisions that have really been final decisions that we could count on. I think this is the key, that we really have to get something going and we have to begin finalizing some of these decisions and that's why, certainly, we appreciate your efforts in trying to bring this about.

I would remind you that Montana is a resource exporting State. That our land-based industries, such as agriculture, mining, and timber are the basis of our State's economy, and that, I think, you only have to review the last couple of years and our economic situation to note that while agriculture and forest products industry and the other industries have been having some tough times, that it is certainly reflected on our economic condition. These are the things that really control how we make our dollars in the State of Montana.

The roadless areas are a part of our existing resource base and while not developed, these lands are equally as important now, as they were a few years ago. The roadless areas or the commercial forest lands within these roadless areas are as important to our industry for the future as those that we have already harvested on for the past. Our timberland is shrinking and as a result of that shrinkage and continued threat of shrinkage, we are looking for release of those areas. If we are going to put areas into wilderness, we need to have areas that we can look at to stabilize our timber base. We also need to remove the legal shroud through sufficiency langauge and, certainly, the wilderness areas need to be addressed to as great a detail as possible throughout this date. Including the 1,393 areas which have already been studied by the Forest Service.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Blasing follows:]

Prepared Statement of Larry B. Blasing on Legislative Proposals for the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II

My name is Larry B. Blasing, Director of Public Timber Programs and Acting Executive Vice President for the Inland Forest Resource Council of Missoula, Montana. The Inland Forest Resource Council is an association of forest product companies that operate mills and plants in Montana and northern Idaho. Member companies harvest timber on private, state and federal lands and process it into lumber, plywood, particle board, cardboard, pulp and paper, packaging and other wood products. These companies employ approximately 15,000 people and the combined annual payroll exceeds 250 million dollars.

The Council's primary goal is a sustained supply of timber from public and private commercial forest lands.

The forest products industry has been pressing for legislative release of non-selected RARE II lands since the time of the Forest Service final recommendation. We testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Environment, Soil Conservation and Forestry to that effect on February 8, 1978. In addition, we have been pressing Congress to legislatively ratify the RARE II FEIS since the California RARE II lawsuit was filed in District Court on July 25, 1979. During this same period of time, we have made numerous recommendations for the resolution of many of the Wilderness questions that are prevalent throughout the state of Montana. We are pleased to see that these issues are finally being considered by Congress.

HISTORY

It may be useful to review some of the history that has brought us to these hearings. The Wilderness Act that was passed in 1964 directed that Wilderness be considered a management option for National Forest System lands that qualified under the provisions of the Act. This authority received very little notice until after the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act. The combination of factors including NEPA, Wilderness consideration for roadless areas, development of roadless areas, and another lawsuit filed in the state of California, elevated this issue to national prominence. During this period, the Forest Service was attempting to prepare plans that would provide direction for the management of national forest lands in compliance with NEPA. These plans were frequently appealed or litigated by preservation groups in their efforts to delay development of those lands until the roadless areas had been considered for Wilderness. The barrage of appeals and lawsuits literally brought the development of the national forests to a halt.

In order to get relief from these actions and get the forest planning process back on track, the Forest Service implemented a study of all roadless lands in the National Forest System. The objective of the study was to examine all roadless areas for their Wilderness attributes and develop recommendations as to which areas would be returned to other forms of multiple-use management. The study was called the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) and is now known as RARE I. This study was completed in October 1973.

The Montana portion of that study concluded that more than 1,500,000 acres be intensively reviewed for inclusion in the Wilderness System.

Preservation groups were never satisfied with the results of this study. They felt that additional areas should have been included in the inventory and that the list of candidate areas should have been much larger. They continually challenged management decisions made throughout the National Forest System on the basis that the RARE I study was inadequate. As a result of the continuing controversy, the Forest Service attempted to reevaluate their decision through a second study known as RARE II.

The Forest Service made more definitive recommendations in their conclusions under RARE II. They recommended lands for Wilderness, further planning, and non-Wilderness uses. Their decisions were based on the largest level of public involvement that was ever received on any Forest Service proposal. The Forest Service received more than 260,000 inputs containing nearly 360,000 signatures. An input is a letter, postcard, petition, etc. This massive public response overwhelmingly recommended that the resource base be protected and that additions to the Wilderness System be restricted to specific deserving areas. There was little support for large additions to the Wilderness System from inventoried roadless lands.

The RARE II FEIS was challenged in court by the state of California in July 1979. The lawsuit challenged the validity of

the FEIS stating that the public did not have sufficient information to make a decision for or against Wilderness on forty-seven (47) non-selected roadless areas in the state of California. The complaint was upheld by both the District Court and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. While this decision only applies to the forty-seven (47) areas in the state of California, it cast a legal cloud over the rest of the RARE II decisions that were included in the FEIS.

FRUSTRATION

One of the objectives of both RARE I and RARE II was to allocate the lands so that the various public resource users would know what areas would be managed for which resource use. After twelve years here we are requesting that Congress act to resolve that same issue.

As a result of the California decision, the forest products industry still does not have a defined resource base. Because of this uncertainty, many companies are postponing investments that would make their utilization of raw material more efficient. The uncertainties of the timber supply are extended to all aspects of the industry. Employees are uncertain about their future, companies access to financing is sometimes restricted, building programs and equipment purchases are postponed, and raw material prices have escalated due to a restricted supply. The whole issue of raw material uncertainty has led to an atmosphere of instability throughout the industry.

Since the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rendered its decision, several appeals have been filed against timber sales, access roads, and other development projects using that decision as the basis for complaint. This places us right back in the atmosphere that prevailed in the early '70's, only now appellants and litigants have a guaranteed means of winning an appeal or litigation based on the California decision.

The Forest Service has recognized the futility of preceeding with any management project that might be threatened by appeal or litigation. Timber sale programs have been curtailed and development projects have been foregone in any roadless area where there is threat of controversy.

RELEASE

Even before the RARE II study was finalized, it was apparent to the timber purchasers that the commercial forest land base would continue to be threatened by unrelenting pressure to increase the Wilderness System. It was evident that no decision would be final until the land had either been harvested or received some special non-timber designation. The preservationist's insatiable appetite for Wilderness is never satisfied. As an example, several areas have been classified as Wilderness in the last few years: Mission Mountains, Great Bear, Scapegoat, and Absaroka-Beartooth are examples. In every case, preservation groups are attempting to add additional area to the previously negotiated boundaries. Even after Congress sets the boundaries, Wilderness supporters attempt to continue the land grab to add any adjacent roadless areas to the Wilderness System.

The Forest Service cannot ever operate effectively and efficiently in this ever-shifting morass. For this reason, it is absolutely essential that Congress act to define the resource base that the various user groups can utilize. Congress must act to insure that all non-selected roadless areas be released from further consideration by the Forest Service for Wilderness. The forest industries believe that this release should be a very long-term one, and at a minimum, well beyond the year 2000. Any shorter release period will only perpetuate the uncertainty that now surrounds our commercial forest land base.

SUFFICIENCY

The Forest Service made a thorough analysis of all of the inventoried roadless areas in the National Forest System. The Forest Service reviewed all of the necessary data that was required to allow them to make an informed decision for or against Wilderness on any given roadless area. According to the courts, the RARE II decision was flawed because the Forest Service did not adequately communicate their findings to the public through the Environmental Impact Statement. Even though the courts defined a communication gap in the FEIS, it is our opinion that the Forest Service evaluation was sufficient for them to make their recommendations.

Since the FEIS is the basic analysis document for any management programs that will be implemented under the RARE II study, there is continuing opportunity for appeal and litigation of

decisions made on that basis. We have seen several appeals in Montana and north Idaho that were based entirely or in part on the California RARE II decisions. In all cases, these appeals were to prevent development of some roadless area. Unless Congress specifically acts, this legal cloud will continue to haunt development of roadless areas that were studied under RARE II. It is therefore imperative that Congress act to ratify the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement by stating that the study was adequate and there should be no further appeal or legal challenge based on that document.

WILDERNESS

The resource base for the user groups will continue to be a source of controversy until Congress finally defines the extent of the Wilderness system. The proposed legislation should dispose of as many of these decisions as possible. There are numerous areas around the state that have been recommended for Wilderness under RARE II and have received some public support for Wilderness. These areas should be evaluated by Congress and either included in the Wilderness System or released for other management purposes.

The forest products industry advanced a Wilderness position for the RARE II study (Exhibit 1). That is still our current position. However, we are presently reviewing certain aspects of that position. I serve as a member of the Montana Governor's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Forest Resources. Bill Cunningham from the Wilderness Society and I were selected to attempt to

achieve a recommendation for a compromise position between our respective Wilderness recommendations. We have met on several occasions to discuss opportunities for compromise. While the IFRC position has not changed, we have agreed to review certain roadless areas to determine whether or not our position is valid. If there are any changes in the IFRC position, we will inform the Congressional delegation immediately.

It is important to understand that the negotiations between Bill Cunningham and myself are just that. I am only looking at these recommendations from a timber standpoint and all of the other resource-using groups such as recreation, mining, and grazing must be consulted before any final decision is made.

We would also like the Committee to understand that not all members of the forest industry endorse the IFRC Wilderness recommendation. Many individuals would prefer that there be no increase in the Wilderness system above present levels. However, we recognize that there will undoubtedly be additions to the Wilderness system and any increases should come from within the areas that we have suggested.

The forest products industry recognizes that the Montana economy is dependent on a variety of resource-using industries as its base. While this industry is one of the mainstays of western Montana's economy, other industries such as mining, oil and gas, and grazing also have a very strong interest in the ultimate decision on the allocation of the roadless areas. We share with them a most fervent wish that the Congress resolve this issue so that

we can look at a future with a broad resource base that will ultimately provide more jobs and a more stable economy.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

When Congress passed the Montana Wilderness Study Act they reserved the final resource allocation decision to themselves. The law requires that the Forest Service study the individual areas and make recommendations to Congress. The Congress will then make the final decision as to whether the area should be classified as Wilderness or returned to non-Wilderness uses. The Forest Service has completed studies on the Big Snowies, Middle Fork of the Judith, Ten Lakes and the West Pioneers. All of these areas were recommended for non-Wilderness. We concur with these recommendations and believe that most Montanans agree. This is another issue that has been debated for more than ten years. The public deserves a decision on these areas as well. We would therefore recommend that the release of these areas be included in any proposed legislation.

The Endangered American Wilderness Act required the study for Wilderness of the Elkhorns Unit. The Forest Service has completed this study and developed a management program that is now in place. We request that this unit be formally released by Congress along with the other non-selected RARE II areas.

The Bureau of Land Management has prepared a Wilderness proposal for the Humbug/Spires Unit near Butte, Montana. If some minor boundary modifications were made to the BLM proposal, we

would support Wilderness classification for this unique area. The inclusion of this area in the proposed legislation would eliminate the need for Congress to consider it in the future.

WILDERNESS COSTS JOBS

There is a constant debate over the effect of the loss of commercial forest land base to Wilderness classification. We have consistently warned that the production losses that occur when commercial forest lands are included in Wilderness areas are definite threats to the stability of dependent communities. Wilderness proponents are equally consistent in their disagreements with us. We are now beginning to see conclusive proof that our predictions are accurate and that Wilderness does, in fact, affect our industrial base and therefore the employment base for the state of Montana.

In 1977, I testified before this Committee on the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness proposal. In my testimony I pointed out that there were large acreages of commercial forest land that were included in the Wilderness proposal that were important to the timber base of the Livingston area. Quoting from my 1977 testimony: "The forest products industry has been deteriorating due to a raw materials shortage in recent years. This shortage has been particularly critical in the Bozeman-Livingston area. A major reason for this shortage can be traced to legislation on proposed Wilderness candidate study areas. . .We have examined the Absaroka-Beartooth area and find several areas that are contained within the proposal that should be developed with wood

fiber as one of the resources to be utilized. These areas are not merely marginal timber producing lands but are actually lands that are quite productive in comparison with other Montana or Rocky Mountain areas. . .In the Absaroka area the Forest Service has determined in a 1971 study that there are approximately 64,500 acres of currently operable timber in the area. It is estimated that there are some 576 MMBF of timber on these lands. From this area alone, sufficient volume could be harvested on a sustained annual basis to more than adequately supply one of the small mills in the Livingston area."

We are sad to report that our 1977 prediction has proved to be true. The Burkland Studs sawmill has been closed and liquidated with the lack of timber supply being one of the primary reasons (Exhibit 2). This has been a severe economic blow to the city of Livingston and Park County. If we continue to classify commercial forest lands as Wilderness, we can expect similar disasters elsewhere in the state. It is extremely important that Congress be very careful when they consider the inclusion of commercial forest lands in any proposed Wilderness area.

In addition to the loss of the Burkland Studs mill in Livingston, we are finding a continuing threat to the local timber base. The Tie Creek Timber Sale was recently appealed on the grounds that the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement was insufficient, re: the California court decision. This timber sale was proposed for an area that is adjacent to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area but was excluded from classification because of its timber values. We now find that local preservationists supported

by the Montana Wilderness Association are attempting to have this area included as part of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. This demonstrates why Congressional release of non-selected roadless areas is absolutely essential to preserve Montana's economy.

LOW PUBLIC WILDERNESS SUPPORT

It has been our observation that the public support for additional Wilderness is fading dramatically. Montanans generally feel that more than three million acres of Wilderness is enough for our state. This has been borne out by a University of Montana Public Opinion Poll which shows that only 25% of the Montana population believe that Montana needs more Wilderness areas. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Montanans consider that there is an adequate amount or too much. (Exhibit 3)

Other polls are showing that the same views about Wilderness prevail throughout the West. Since the public does not want more Wilderness and demand is for resource uses other than Wilderness (1980 RPA Assessment), then Congress should be very conservative in their efforts to classify additional areas.

FOREST SERVICE PLANNING DELAYED

As a result of the California decision, the Forest Service has had to delay management decisions on inventoried roadless areas. Many forests have had programs delayed for as much as twelve years while the proper management plans were being completed. The delays were caused by RARE I, RARE II, and now the California court decision.

In 1976, Congress passed the National Forest Management Act which directed the Forest Service to implement a very important planning process spelled out in the Act, and the subsequent regulations. It was intended that forest plans be completed by the year 1985. The Forest Service has been working on this planning process for as much as four years in some cases; relying on the decisions made in the RARE II study as the basis for land allocations on inventoried roadless areas. The California court ruling has invalidated the RARE II decisions, forcing the Forest Service to backtrack and redo the forest plans with Wilderness alternatives for all inventoried roadless areas.

This is a tremendous waste of taxpayers money. The forest planning process has cost each national forest from 1 to 2 million dollars. Not only is each national forest faced with a delay of six months to two years to prepare their forest plans but they are also faced with expending perhaps another million dollars per national forest. With some 120 forest plans to be prepared, this is a substantial cost to the American taxpayers and, no one anticipates that the decisions made in the revised plans will be any different than those made in the plans that are currently being prepared.

PUBLIC BEING SHORTCHANGED

The public has been asked to participate in the land allocation process on inventoried roadless areas since 1971. They have written letters, attended meetings, attended hearings, responded

to the Forest Service, responded to Congress, and are now being drug through the process again. The public involvement process has been going on for twelve years and to date the public has not had the benefit of any positive decisions. They are still being asked to comment on the same issues that were discussed twelve years ago. It is no wonder that the public is apathetic toward participation in government or political matters. The public deserves to have this debate come to an end. Congress has the only means to effectively bring this issue to a close. The roadless area issue has been with us too long. It is time to begin finalizing some decisions and bring the land allocation question to a close. Resource-user groups and the public deserve some effective decisions and we are requesting that you proceed with legislation as expeditiously as possible. We deserve to know where we stand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

EXHIBIT 1

A FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY ALTERNATIVE TO THE
FOREST SERVICE RARE II LAND ALLOCATION PROPOSAL
FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS OF MONTANA
By
The Forest Products Industry of Montana

The Montana forest products industry is offering this alternative to the RARE II land allocation recommendation made by the U.S. Forest Service in their January 4 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Forest Service recommendation has included significant amounts of commercial forest lands which are needed to sustain some members of Montana's forest products industry. We feel that some of the recommendations that have been made by the Forest Service fly in the face of their policy of protecting community stability. It has been stated many times by the Forest Service, the Governor, Congressional delegates and members of Wilderness advocacy groups, that Wilderness classification should not jeopardize the stability of timber dependent communities. The Forest Service proposal includes areas which do threaten the stability of some Montana communities. We are therefore recommending changes that we feel are critical to the survival of some members of our forest products industry and therefore the communities that are dependent upon them.

The Forest Service recommendation includes significant amounts of commercial forestlands (CFL) which will create difficulty in allowing the Forest Service to attain their long range goals under

the Resource Planning Act (1975). Of immediate concern is that it will also add to critical timber supply problems in a number of communities which are dependent upon national forest timber to sustain their local economy. Examples, include Seeley Lake, Superior, and Darby in Montana; and Salmon, and Elk City in Idaho.

Our alternative proposal has been developed to modify the Forest Service recommendation in a manner which will allow adding a large area of quality Wilderness in Montana while reducing the economic impact on dependent communities. We have utilized the following basic criteria in developing our recommendations:

1. No RARE II areas with significant amounts of commercial forest land (CFL) should be classified as Wilderness or "further planning".
2. No areas should be left in "further planning" except those Wilderness candidate study areas designated by Congress.
3. The Resource Planning Act (RPA) national goals for forest resource utilization established in 1975 should be achieved.
4. The concept of Wilderness "quality" and not "quantity" should be basic to the entire process.
5. All deliberation on land use classification in the RARE II process should include only areas formally included in the RARE II inventory.
6. The Montana forest products industry recognizes and supports the concept of multiple use management in the national forests and includes Wilderness as one of those uses.

7. The size and health of the forest products industry in Montana in general is directly proportional to the amount of potential yield that remains available for timber management. Potential yield correlates closely with the amount of commercial forest land.
8. The timber industry is concerned about the buffer zone effects of establishing additional wilderness. There is a tendency to apply very severe restraints on commercial activities in multiple use forests near Wilderness areas.
9. There is concern that Wilderness areas will be ruled Zone I under the Clean Air Act and there will be stringent measures taken to protect Wilderness are purity by restricting future industry growth and some standard forest management practices.
10. Timber supply shortages do not confine themselves to local areas. Timber shortages increase the competition for timber in adjacent areas spreading the shortage to adjacent areas.
11. Substantial acreages will be classified as Wilderness in the legislated Wilderness candidate study areas reducing the need for classification of RARE II areas.
12. Forest Service land use plans will restrict the commercial forest land base causing additional reductions in timber supply.

13. Prior to making a final classification, the land use needs of all potential user groups must be considered and demands of any single user group, including the timber interests, should not dominate or preclude the basic multiple use concept. Areas identified by the forest products industry as candidates for Wilderness may have other commodity or motorized recreational value which should elminate their selection for such classification.

Table 1 summarizes a comparison of the Forest Service recommendation, the Governor's recommendation, and the forest products industry proposals:

Table 1
IEIS
January 29, 1979

ECONOMIC IMPACT COMPARISON

	Acres	Potential Yield MMBF/Yr.	Jobs Lost/Yr.	County Revenues Lost (M$)/Yr.
Wilderness				
Forest Service	595,481	31.3	657.3	545.3
Governor	600,744	34.0	714.0	549.8
Forest Products Industry	270,378	13.0	273.0	230.8
Further Planning				
FS	1,124,278	38.7	812.7	628.8
Governor[a/]	946,850	32.6	684.6	526.5
Forest Products Industry[a/]	946,850	32.6	684.6	526.5
Wilderness & Further Planning				
Forest Service	1,719,759	70.0	1,470.0	1,175.1
Governor	1,715,090	66.6	1,398.6	1,075.3
Forest Products Industry	1,217,228	45.6	957.6	757.3

[a/] The Governor and the forest products industry did not recommend any further planning areas but, tentatived Wilderness candidate study areas are included for comparison.

Our alternative proposal will reduce the long term economic impact of additional Wilderness and further planning classifications in the State of Montana by 512 jobs (direct and indirect), and return an additional $417 thousand to local government while reducing the Montana RARE II Wilderness recommendation by 325.1 M acres. It would reduce the Governor's Wilderness proposal by 330.4 M acres and provide an additional 441 jobs and $319,000 in county revenues.

The sale of national forest timber provides an important source of money for counties through the 25% fund. Any reduction in timber sale programs caused by classification of RARE II areas will cause a corresponding drop in county funding. Since this source of funds does not come from tax dollars it would seem to be important to retain this source of funding during times of taxpayer revolt. According to Forest Service FY 1978 records, each million feet of timber harvested in Region 1 should produce about $16,180 in 25% funds. In nearly all cases 25% fund payments produced a greater income from counties than the in lieu tax payments made to county governments.

The site specific industry recommendation attached represents a thorough analysis of the roadless areas and their potential to produce a timber crop. Professional foresters from forest products companies throughout Montana have participated in this review. With the cooperation of the Forest Service, a substantial data base has been developed which will be shared with you and your staff upon request.

It should be stressed that we are concerned with developing a realistic and socially responsible resolution to the RARE II process.

Our alternative takes into account the economic impacts related only to timber. Other commodities and recreational uses of the national forests are not reflected in our recommendation. It is our sincere hope that other involved user groups, governmental agencies and primary political leaders will consider our recommendation in this light.

TABLE 2
1-29-79
IFRC

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RARE II RECOMMENDATION FOR WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b]	COUNTY REVENUE LOST PER YEAR M$[e]
Scotchman Peak B1662	36,727	15,057	2.5	52.5	761.3	205.0	51.3
Hoodoo D,Q301	77,797	49,162	5.8	121.8	1,766.1	475.6	118.9
Italian Peak 11945	12,996	1,113	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Quigg Peak Q1807	60,050	57,964	1.3	27.3	395.9	106.6	26.7
East Pioneer 01008	94,091	54,151	3.4	24.4	353.8	61.4	15.4
Last Water Canyon 01362	9,800	55,059	0	0	0	0	0
Tongue River Breaks 01373	16,600	2,560	0	0	0	0	0
Lionhead 01963	22,400	3,966	.3	6.3	91.4	17.4	4.4
Republic Mtn. 01545	700	233	0	0	0	0	0
Reef 01914	700	233	0	0	0	0	0
North Big Hole B1001	6,532	916	.4	8.4	121.8	23.2	5.8
Swift Cr. 01065	700	696	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Needle Cr. 01066	1,100	1,100	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Storm Lake 01427	9,700	1,829	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Clearwater-Monture BQZ 1485	108,504	77,515	10.4	218.4	3,166.8	852.8	213.2

TABLE 2
1-29-79
IFRC

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RARE II RECOMMENDATION FOR WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b/]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b/]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c/]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d/]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b/]	COUNTY REVENUE LOST PER YEAR M$ [e/]
Silver King Falls F-1485	32,000	8,901	3.2	67.2	974.4	185.6	46.4
Renshaw Mtn. T,V,W 1485	31,304	7,390	2.1	44.1	639.5	105.0	26.3
McKAY Cr. A1676	7,301	2,153	.2	4.2	60.9	16.4	4.1
Cabinet Face West C1670	6,866	4,526	.4	8.4	121.8	32.8	8.2
Cabinet Face East (West) C1681	376	376	.1	2.1	30.5	8.2	2.1
Chippewa Cr. 01682	1,037	319	.1	2.1	30.5	8.2	2.1
Big Log W1610	10,000	2,757	0	0	0	0	0.
Selway Bitterroot Canyons S1BAA	12,800	5,692	.1	2.1	30.5	8.2	2.1
Blodgett Canyon 01061	9,600	2,197	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork Lost Horse 01062	7,800	1,973	0	0	0	0	0
Trapper Cr. 01063	2,500	1,545	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Lake 01064	2,900	1,318	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Cr. M1845	12,600	5,040	.6	12.6	182.7	49.2	12.3
TOTALS	595,481	315,741	31.3	657.3	8,849.9	2,178.8	545.3

TABLE 3
1-29-79
IFRC

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RARE II RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER PLANNING
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b]	COUNTY REVENU LOST PER YEAR M$ [e]
Elkhorn A, E1620	85,800	57,560	2.1	44.1	639.5	121.8	30.5
Big Snowies A,B, S 1739	121,700	100,455	4.4	92.4	1,339.8	255.2	63.8
Blue Joint A1941	61,400	57,828	1.2	25.2	365.4	98.4	24.6
Hyalite G,H 1548	151,000	32,739	2.7	56.7	822.2	156.6	39.2
Middle Fk. Judith 01734	92,200	80,233	4.9	102.9	1,492.1	284.2	71.1
Mt. Henry 01666	21,000	18,206	2.9	60.9	883.1	237.8	59.5
Sapphires 01421	42,600	39,474	2.5	52.5	761.3	205.0	51.3
Madison E,N,S 1549	189,000	54,725	4.9	102.9	1,492.1	284.2	71.1
Ten Lakes 01683	34,000	14,030	2.3	48.3	700.4	188.6	47.2
West Pioneer 01006	148,150	78,640	4.7	98.7	1,431.2	272.6	68.2
Sub-Total[f]	946,850	533,890	32.6	684.6	9,927.1	2,104.4	526.5
Middle Mt.-Tobacco Roots B1013	38,100	14,549	.8	16.8	243.6	46.4	11.6
Deep Cr. H,P 1485	27,588	968	.1	2.1	30.5	.2	.1
Flint Range 01428	52,340	32,899	2.5	52.5	761.3	145.0	36.3
Dolus Lake 01429	9,100	5,071	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Rattlesnake 01801	45,700	19,100	2.5	52.5	761.3	205.0	51.3
Mt. Jefferson 01962	4,600	520	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
TOTAL	1,124,278	606,997	38.7	812.7	11,784.8	2,512.6	628.8

TABLE 4
1-29-79
IFRC

GOVERNOR'S RARE II RECOMMENDATION FOR WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b/]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b/]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c/]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d/]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b/]	COUNTY REVENU. LOST PER YEAR M$ [e/]
North Big Hole B1001	37,810	33,132	1.6	33.6	487.2	92.8	23.2
Clearwater-Monture C1485	83,305	63,648	8.5	178.5	3,823.5	527.0	131.8
Deep Creek D1485	27,800	2,140	.7	14.7	213.2	1.4	0.4
Silver King Falls Cr. F1485	38,300	8,901	3.2	67.2	974.4	185.6	46.4
Hoodoo H1301 [g/]	55,000	40,000	4.7	98.7	1,431.2	385.4	96.4
Renshaw Mtn. R1485	27,400	7,080	2.1	44.1	639.5	105.0	26.3
Madison R1549	43,980	8,758	.8	16.8	243.6	46.4	11.6
Selway Bitterroot Canyon S1BAA	12,700	5,692	.1	2.1	30.5	0.2	2.1
East Pioneers).008	93,859	54,151	3.4	71.4	1,035.3	197.2	49.3
Middle Mtn.-Tobacco Roots 01013	34,640	33,760	.8	16.8	243.6	46.4	11.6
Blodgett Canyon 01061	9,600	2,197	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork Lost Horse 01062	7,800	1,973	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Cr. 01064	2,900	1,318	0	0	0	0	0
Swift Cr. 01065	700	696	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Scotchman Peaks 01662 [g/]	40,000	17,000	2.7	56.7	822.2	221.4	55.4

TABLE 4
1-29-79
IFRC

GOVERNOR'S RARE II RECOMMENDATION FOR WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b]	COUNTY REVENU LOST PER YEAR M$ [e]
Flint Range 01428	52,220	32,899	2.5	52.5	761.3	145.0	36.3
Mission Additions 01500-01506	3,130	2,462	.3	6.3	91.4	24.6	6.
Republic Mtn. 01545	700	233	0	0	0	0	0
Rattlesnake 01801	27,800	19,100	2.5	52.5	761.3	205.0	51.3
Welcome Cr. Addn. 01806	1,100	972	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	599,644	336,113	34.0	714.0	11,588.7	2,197.2	549.8

TABLE 5
1-29-79
IFRC

MONTANA FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT RELATED TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

AREA	GROSS ACRES	CFL ACRES[b]	POTEN YIELD MMBF/YR.[b]	JOBS LOST/YR.[c]	PAYROLL LOST/YR.[d]	TIMBER VALUE LOST PER YR. M$[b]	COUNTY REVENU LOST PER YEAR M$[e]
Scotchman's Peak B1662	36,727	15,057	2.5	52.5	761.3	205.0	51.3
Hoodoo Q1301	27,600	9,000	1.1	23.1	335.0	90.2	22.6
Itatian Peak I1945	12,996	1,113	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Lost Water Canyon 01362	9,800	5,059	0	0	0	0	0
Lionhead 01963	20,620	2,900	.3	6.3	91.4	17.4	4.4
Republic Mtn. 01545	700	233	0	0	0	0	0
Reef 01914	700	233	0	0	0	0	0
North Big Hole B1001	6,532	916	.4	8.4	121.8	23.2	5.8
Storm Lake 01427	9,700	1,829	.1	2.1	30.5	5.8	1.5
Clearwater Monture B,Q,Z 1485	47,570	33,930	4.5	94.5	1,370.3	369.0	92.3
Renshaw Mtn. T,V,V 1485	31,304	7,390	2.1	44.1	645.3	105.2	26.3
Cabinet Face West C1670	6,866	4,526	.4	8.4	121.8	32.8	8.2
Cabinet Face East (West) C1681	376	376	.1	2.1	30.5	8.2	2.1
Chippewa Cr. 01682	1,037	319	.1	2.1	30.5	8.2	2.1
Big Log W1610	10,000	2,757	0	0	0	0	0
Quigg Peak Q1807	29,500	27,000	.6	12.6	182.7	49.2	12.3
Silver King Falls F1485	18,350	2,000	.7	14.7	213.2	1.4	.4
TOTALS	270,378	114,638	13.0	273.0	3,964.8	721.2	230.8

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b/ USFS RARE II Listing of Timber Resources 4/22/78 - 12/1/78.

c/ Wood Products in Montana, by Maxine Johnson, Montana Business Quarterly, Spring 1972.

d/ Based on $14,500 per job per year.

e/ 25% of timber value.

f/ Total of legislated Wilderness candidate study areas.

g/ Data estimated proportionately from F.S. data.

EXHIBIT 2

AUCTION

WRITE YOUR BIDDER NUMBER HERE

May 17
AUCTION DATE

TUES., MAY 17, 1983 — 10:00 A.M.

AUCTION NAME

BURKLAND STUDS, INC.

LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

406-222-0939

PLEASE RETAIN CATALOG FOR DURATION OF SALE

Immediate Maximum Dollar Return is Available to You Under Any of These Plans:

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EXHIBIT 3

Montanans and Wilderness Issues

CHARLES E. KEEGAN, MARY L. LENIHAN, PAUL E. POLZIN, AND SUSAN SELIG WALLWORK

Over three million acres of land in Montana have been designated by the federal government as wilderness areas. Under Rare II proceedings, the Forest Service has recommended another 600,000 acres for wilderness, and well over one million acres still are involved in the planning process. Over the years wilderness advocates and other interest groups have squared off over issues of wilderness designation and use, and the discussion is far from over.

What does wilderness mean to Montanans? How familiar are they with it? Are they aware of the activities which are permitted and those which are forbidden within wilderness borders and in adjacent areas? What activities do they believe should be permitted in wilderness areas? What proportion of Montanans are actually wilderness users? These and other questions were the topic of the latest Montana Poll.

Highlights of the Poll

- **Most Montanans oppose the use of natural resources (oil, natural gas, timber, minerals) located in wilderness areas. However, many say that there are circumstances under which these resources might be used.**
- **Two-thirds of the Montanans questioned favor exploration for oil and gas and other natural resources located on public lands bordering wilderness areas.**
- **About 40 percent of the Montanans surveyed said they favor the addition of more wilderness areas in the United States, but only 25 percent said that Montana needs more wilderness areas.**
- **Montanans define wilderness as a primitive mountain or forest area set aside for wildlife and recreation.**
- **A majority of those questioned had some understanding of activities currently permitted in wilderness areas.**
- **About a fourth of Montanans surveyed said they had visited a designated wilderness area last year. But when asked to name the wilderness area, only 60 percent of these self-described wilderness visitors accurately named an actual wilderness area.**
- **Montanans who visit wilderness areas are likely to be young (between eighteen and forty-four years of age), male, students or individuals with at least some college, and from western Montana.**
- **Wilderness use does not seem to depend on income or political preference.**

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Charles E. Keegan is Research Associate, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana, Missoula.

Attitudes toward Activities and Resource Use in Wilderness Areas and Bordering Lands

Montanans have strong preferences about which activities should and should not be allowed in federally designated wilderness areas. They oppose the exploration and use of many of the natural resources located in wilderness areas. But they clearly differentiate between resources located within wilderness areas and those located on public lands adjacent to wilderness areas.

Resource uses and activities in wilderness areas

Results from the latest Montana Poll indicate that Montanans generally oppose allowing activities related to the development and use of commodity-type natural resources, use of motorized recreational vehicles, and developed recreational facilities in wilderness areas. Respondents were asked specifically about timber cutting, exploration for and production of oil and gas and minerals (metals and nonmetallic minerals), and cattle and sheep grazing.

With the exception of cattle and sheep grazing, most Montanans surveyed opposed permitting activities involving use of commodity-type resources. About 54 percent would permit cattle and sheep grazing in wilderness areas. As discussed in a later section, many Montanans do not know that oil and gas and mineral exploration and production are currently permitted under the Wilderness Act of 1964, but they are overwhelmingly opposed to such activities. Only 16 percent of those questioned would permit oil and gas and mineral production in wilderness areas (table 1).

There is a slightly greater willingness to allow exploration for these commodities; about 24 percent of the respondents would permit exploration. Timber cutting was favored by only about 22 percent of the respondents.

There is also strong opposition to the use of motorized recreation vehicles in wilderness areas. Over 70 percent of the respondents felt that the recreational use of vehicles such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, motorboats, and the like, should not be permitted in designated wilderness areas. The development of roads and of resort-type recreation facilities in designated wilderness areas was also opposed by roughly seven out of ten respondents. For the most part, of course, these activities are forbidden in the wilderness.

Recreation activities not associated with motorized vehicles or developed facilities are generally permitted in wilderness areas, and they drew considerable support from Poll respondents. Virtually all those asked felt that horseback riding, backpacking and hiking, and fishing should be allowed in wilderness areas. Hunting is somewhat less acceptable, although nearly 70 percent of the people interviewed did feel it should be allowed.

Two of the activities discussed dealt with protection of the designated wilderness area and its users. Over 85 percent of the respondents felt the use of motorized equipment or vehicles should be permitted in order to fight fires or for rescue purposes. Somewhat fewer but still a majority (64 percent) felt that the spraying of insects should be permitted. These activities, too, are generally forbidden although there are some discretionary provisions.

Resource use on lands bordering wilderness areas

While most Montanans feel that development and use of commodity-type natural resources should not occur in wilderness areas, apparently

Table 1
What Montanans Told Us About Activities That Should or Should Not Be Allowed in Wilderness Areas

	Should Be Allowed	Should Not Be Allowed
Activities directly involving development or use of commodity-type resources in wilderness areas:		
Cattle or sheep grazing	54%	39%
Oil and gas exploration	24%	73%
Minerals exploration	24%	70%
Timber cutting	22%	77%
Oil and gas production	16%	79%
Mining (minerals production)	15%	79%
Recreation activities involving motorized vehicles and other activities associated with development:		
Resort-type recreation facilities	27%	66%
Roads and road building	26%	67%
General or recreational use of motorized vehicles (such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, motor boats, aircraft, etc.)	28%	71%
Recreation activities not requiring motorized vehicles or developed facilities:		
Backpacking and hiking	97%	1%
Horseback riding	95%	1%
Fishing	95%	3%
Hunting	69%	26%
Activities related to protection of area and users:		
Spraying for insects	64%	29%
Use of motorized equipment or vehicles for rescue or fire control	86%	10%

Note: Percentage detail may not add to 100 because miscellaneous responses have been omitted from the table.

they feel quite differently about these activities on public lands adjacent to or bordering wilderness areas. The respondents were specifically asked about timber cutting, exploration for and production of oil and gas and minerals, and cattle and sheep grazing.

The Montana Poll results suggest that the majority of Montanans (at least 60 percent in each case) feel that such natural resource uses or activities on public lands bordering wilderness areas should be treated generally the same as they would be treated on other public nonwilderness lands.

Timber cutting and cattle and sheep grazing, in particular, would be restricted by the fewest number (less than 25 percent). In no case, however, did more than one-third of the respondents favor treating any of these natural resource uses or activities as they would be treated in wilderness areas (table 2).

Circumstances under which wilderness resources might be used

The development and use of commodity-type natural resources in wilderness areas has been the subject of much controversy lately, especially with regard to oil and gas. While Montanans seem to have strong feelings against such resource development and use in wilderness areas, the opposition is not unanimous. Some fears have also been expressed that such resources in wilderness areas might be "locked up" forever, regardless of external situations. To delve a bit further into this issue, the Montana Poll included several questions intended to identify specific situations under which the use of certain natural resources—specifically timber, oil and gas, and minerals—might be permitted, in the respondents' opinion. The respondents were asked, for each resource, if that resource should be left completely untouched, or if there were circumstances under which the respondent felt some of the resource might be used.

The results indicate that while most Montanans tend to oppose development and use of such natural resources in wilderness areas, this opposition is not absolute—some of it is tempered by particular circumstances or situations in which the respondents feel such use might be warranted.

Among the three commodity-type resources—timber, oil and gas, and minerals—Montanans are much more likely to feel possible timber use might be warranted. Almost seven out of ten respondents indicated there were circumstances under which timber in designated wilderness areas could be used. Respondents were divided on the issue of using oil and gas in wilderness areas. When it comes to minerals, however, barely a third felt there were circumstances that might warrant the use of minerals found in wilderness areas (table 3).

The most common circumstances under which the respondents would allow the use of timber in designated areas was when timber was cut to promote a healthy forest or for forest protection; about 28 percent felt timber cutting and use would be justified for this. Prevention of fire, prevention or control of insect and disease infestation, and thinning to promote growth were mentioned most frequently. Another 8 percent of the respondents also mentioned thinning, without any specific reference to promoting growth or a healthy forest (table 4).

There appeared to be a feeling among a fair number of respondents that designated wilderness areas represent areas in which reserves of such

Table 2
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
Selected Activities on Public Lands Adjacent to Wilderness Areas

Treatment on border lands should be generally the same as in . . . . .

	Wilderness Areas	Nonwilderness Areas
Cattle and sheep grazing	21%	75%
Timber cutting	24%	70%
Oil and gas exploration	58%	44%
Minerals exploration	38%	60%
Oil and gas production	31%	64%
Mining (minerals production)	34%	64%

Note: Percentage detail may not add to 100 because miscellaneous responses have been omitted from the table.

Table 3
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
The Use of Selected Natural Resources in Wilderness Areas

	Timber	Oil and Gas	Minerals
Leave completely untouched	34%	59%	64%
Use should or might be permitted to some situations	64%	40%	34%

Note: Percentage detail may not add to 100 because miscellaneous responses have been omitted from the table.

natural resources are stored for needs which might develop in the future. This was especially true for oil and gas and for minerals but also to a degree for timber. When describing circumstances when timber in designated wilderness areas might be used, about 13 percent of the respondents described a condition of future need. These responses ranged from suggestions that the timber should be saved for periods of future shortages to "it should be used only if a severe national emergency arises." About 1 percent suggested going to the wilderness area timber resources as the last resort.

Only about 4 percent stated something to the effect that the timber is there and it should be used.

Many of those envisioning possible uses, either present or future, prescribed some restrictions on the actual harvest operation. A relatively high number in this group (16 percent) suggested only removal and use of timber that is diseased, insect infested, burned, dead, or down. Somewhat lower percentages would allow harvesting but with constraints such as harvesting only mature trees, allowing selective harvesting only (no clearcutting permitted), or allowing harvesting only if the area is reforested.

A point worth mentioning is that some of the respondents were proposing situations of use that are not feasible or practical given the present character of wilderness areas. For example, they spoke about salvaging dead timber or using timber cut to prevent forest damage but discussed it in such a way as to imply activities applicable to forest lands that are generally accessible by roads. For the most part, roads are not permitted in wilderness areas.

Table 4
What Montanans Told Us About
The Use of Timber in Designated Wilderness Areas

Timber resources should be left completely untouched	36%
Timber use should or might be permitted in some situations	66%
Responses referring to or suggesting forest protection or promotion of a healthy forest:	
Forest protection or promotion of healthy forest	28%
General references to thinning (no indication of purpose of or reason for thinning)	3%
Responses referring to or suggesting maintaining the timber as a reserve for varying degrees of future need:	
Use timber in wilderness areas only as a last resort (no other sources available)	12
Use in time of severe or critical need or shortage (national emergency, severe national shortage, etc.)	5%
References to use in time of "need" but without any indication of severe or critical need	8%
Responses indicating that the timber is there (to be used) and should be used	4
Responses emphasizing specific constraints on the actual harvesting (in addition to any siting of present or future uses classified elsewhere):	
Allow removal and use of timber that is diseased, dead, burned, downed, or the like (as opposed to cutting standing timber that is healthy)	16%
Allow selective harvesting only (select cut basis, or clear cutting, etc.)	6%
Harvest only mature trees that would otherwise go to waste	4%
Only if the area is reforested (replanted, reseeded, etc.)	3%
Other miscellaneous responses and those unable to cite specific situations	9%

Note: Percentage detail for "use situations" responses does not add to total because of multiple responses.

As noted earlier, those we asked were strongly divided on the issue of possible use of oil and gas in wilderness areas—about half oppose any use of the oil and gas, while almost as many (48 percent) envision some possible use. Among the latter, most apparently view such resources as a reserve for needs which might develop in the future. About 6 percent of the respondents view wilderness areas as a source of last resort for oil and gas, while about 20 percent referred to conditions of critical shortage or need (including war or national defense). Another 15 percent referred to "need" with no indication of severity (table 5).

A few mentioned future embargoes by foreign sources, severe reductions in foreign supplies, or prohibitive price levels for those supplies. About as many suggested exploration for inventory purposes now and reserving for future need.

Possible use of minerals in wilderness areas received considerably less support—only about 34 percent compared to almost two-thirds opposed.

Most of those feeling there were circumstances under which minerals in wilderness areas might be used also referred to future uses. Likewise, the situations that might warrant such use were much the same. About 4 percent would go to wilderness areas as a last resort, while about 12 percent cited critical shortages or needs, including war or national defense.

In both cases—oil and gas, and minerals—several respondents indicated production and extraction must be conducted on a strictly controlled basis and that development should be limited to large deposits and ones generating significant economic benefit. A few respondents indicated that it was okay "if a guy wants to go in and pan a little gold," but no big equipment and large-scale operations.

Only about 5 percent expressed an unconditional "If it's there, use it" stance.

Montanans' awareness of wilderness legislation

Shortly before the Montana Poll interviews took place, Interior Secretary James Watt announced a proposed moratorium on oil and gas exploration in wilderness areas until the year 2000. How aware are Montanans of this plan, and do they favor it?

The Montana Poll asked respondents whether they had heard anything about any Reagan Administration proposals to change the laws dealing with wilderness areas. One-third of the respondents said they had. However, when asked to identify the proposal less than a fourth were able to do so and only one in ten was able to do so accurately.

About a third of those who accurately identified the proposed moratorium favored the idea, while about half were opposed to it.

Despite the relatively few who actually knew of Watt's proposal, Montanans claim to be interested in legislation concerning wilderness areas. More than six in ten Poll respondents said they were very or moderately interested in keeping informed on wilderness issues. Over a fourth said they were slightly interested, and fewer than one in ten professed no interest.

Table 5
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
The Use of Oil and Gas and Minerals in Designated Wilderness Areas

	Oil and Gas	Minerals
Such resources should be left completely untouched	50%	64%
Resource use should or might be permitted in some situations	48%	34%
Responses referring to or suggesting maintaning the resources as a reserve for varying degrees of future need:		
Use resources in wilderness areas only as a last resort (no other sources available)	6%	4%
Use in time of severe or critical need or shortage, other than defense related (severe national emergency in general, etc.)	14%	8%
Use in time of critical need for national defense, war, etc.	6%	4%
References to use in time of "need" but without any indication of severe or critical need	15%	8%
Use if supplies of oil and gas from foreign sources are eliminated, cut off, severely reduced	4%	NA
Allow exploration to locate and inventory resources but save resources for future need	3%	2%
Responses referring to use of the oil and gas because of opposition to (or concern about) this country's use of or dependence on foreign sources	3%	NA
Responses indicating that if the resources are there they should be used, or that they are there and should be used	5%	5%
Responses emphasizing specific constraints on the extraction or production (in addition to any citing of present or future uses classified elsewhere):		
Go after deposits that are large enough to make the effort worthwhile, generally feasible	2%	2%
If economic benefits are substantive or if economically feasible or worthwhile	2%	2%
Allow on a controlled regulated basis, with reclamation or no significant destruction	9%	8%
Only small-scale operations, small companies	--[a]	2%
Other miscellaneous responses and those unable to cite specific situations	9%	7%

Notes: Percentage detail does not add to 100 because miscellaneous responses were omitted; percentage detail for "use situation" responses does not add to total because of multiple responses.

NA denotes not applicable; relates to oil and gas only.

[a]Less than 1 percent.

Energy and Wilderness

While Montanans strongly oppose exploration for oil and gas reserves in wilderness areas, they are almost as strongly in favor of exploration on public lands bordering wilderness areas. Moreover, even with the price of gasoline currently dropping and reports of discord among OPEC countries, Montanans have not forgotten about the energy crisis. They believe the current energy situation in this country is serious and that the United States should be developing domestic sources of oil and natural gas.

When asked about the current energy situation in the United States, only 3 percent of the Montana Poll respondents did not express an opinion. This suggests that this problem is indeed on the minds of most Montanans.

Respondents who believed the current energy situation is critical outnumbered two to one (62 percent versus 35 percent) those who believed the problem is not critical. They were not overly concerned, however. Only 19 percent said that the energy crisis is very critical.

Montanans also were asked about the rate at which sources of oil and gas in the United States were being developed. The results show Montana public opinion to be divided; about 43 percent said that these domestic sources are being developed too slowly, while 44 percent said that the United States is moving at about the right speed. Only 6 percent responded that these domestic resources are being developed too quickly.

Table 6
What Montanans Told Us About Oil and Gas Exploration

Montanans were asked how they felt about searching for oil and gas resources . . .

	Strongly Favored	Somewhat Favored	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed
On private lands	47%	41%	5%	2%
On public lands	39%	45%	10%	3%
In designated Wilderness Areas	8%	17%	17%	55%
On public lands bordering designated Wilderness Areas	24%	43%	17%	12%
On National Forest lands	18%	29%	26%	25%
In offshore ocean areas	32%	37%	11%	10%

Montanans who said that the United States is moving at about the right speed to develop domestic oil and gas sources were not necessarily satisfied. About 20 percent of these respondents said that we were proceeding as fast as we could, given the problems with extracting these resources. Slightly more than 14 percent expressed some doubt about whether the problems are real. Approximately 15 percent cited increased activity such as seismographic testing and drilling as indications that the problem is being worked on.

Among those who thought the United States is moving too slowly, almost 35 percent believed that this country should be self-sufficient and not depend on foreign sources. Some were cynics; about 27 percent suggested that there are plenty of oil and gas resources, but that some of them are not being developed because of economic and political pressures.

Because there were so few of them, only a vague profile can be developed of those who said oil and gas resources are being developed too quickly. The two most often cited reasons for their opinions were an expressed concern that land and other resources were needlessly being destroyed and that alternative sources of energy (solar, coal, etc.) should be developed first.

In order to develop domestic reserves, Montanans clearly favor oil and gas exploration—except in designated wilderness areas (table 6). A resounding 72 percent opposed oil and gas exploration inside their boundaries. Even among those who think the energy situation is critical or that the United States is moving too slowly in developing domestic oil and gas reserves, more than 70 percent are against exploration inside wilderness areas.

Oil and gas exploration inside wilderness areas is apparently not a partisan issue. About the same proportions of Republicans, Democrats, and political independents oppose such exploration in wilderness areas.

However, Montanans definitely distinguish between public land inside and outside of designated wilderness areas. While only 25 percent approved of exploration inside wilderness areas, about 67 percent favored these same activities on adjacent public land just outside the border.

The Poll also found that:

—More than two-thirds of the respondents approved of exploring for oil and gas on private lands and on public lands in general.

—Montanans—who have no seashores—favored oil and gas exploration in offshore ocean areas. Apparently the respondents do not consider the

ocean areas as being similar to wilderness areas.

—There was less support for oil and gas exploration in National Forests than on other public lands.

What Wilderness Means to Montanans

What does "wilderness" mean to Montanans? The Poll asked Montanans, "When you hear the word 'Wilderness'—what kind of things come to mind?" For the most part, they envision a primitive mountain or forest area set aside for wildlife and outdoor recreation. Only a few said that the word "wilderness" brought to mind political or environmental issues.

The Montana definition

Most Montanans have roughly the same concept of wilderness, regardless of age, sex, and place of residence.

The most frequent response, mentioned by 53 percent of those interviewed, was that "wilderness" reminded them of mountains, forests, and the outdoors. In second place (38 percent) was the vision of an untouched, undeveloped, or primitive area. Other respondents mentioned wildlife or animals (36 percent) or a specific place (19 percent), sometimes a wilderness area and sometimes not.

Self-described wilderness users (persons who said they had visited a wilderness area in the last year) were a little more likely to associate the word "wilderness" with a political or environmental issue, such as oil and gas exploration.

The amount of wilderness

Setting aside additional land for wilderness designation is a controversial topic, and Montanans' feelings differ about the amount of wilderness in the United States and in Montana. Additional wilderness in Montana received much less support from Montana Poll respondents than did increases elsewhere in the country (table 7).

When asked about the amount of land nationwide in designated wilderness areas, Montana Poll respondents were almost evenly split. About 43 percent said there is currently an adequate amount, while 39 percent favored adding more. Only 10 percent said there is too much designated wilderness in the United States overall.

Bringing the issue closer to home, when asked about Montana, the respondents were much less enthusiastic about adding more land to designated wilderness areas. About 60 percent said there is an adequate amount, and only 25 percent favored adding more. About 10 percent said there is too much wilderness in Montana.

Regardless of age, sex, and political preference, those favoring more wilderness in Montana were outnumbered roughly two to one by those believing there is currently an adequate amount. There was no difference between those living in eastern Montana and those in western Montana, where most of the state's wilderness areas are located.

Those advocating increased wilderness sometimes appear to be a large and vocal group. Who are they? Those favoring increased wilderness (not necessarily those making the most noise) are, for the most part, a cross-section of Montanans. The only characteristic that stood out was a tendency to classify themselves as wilderness users (table 8). Even then, there were few glaring differences. About 35 percent of those who

Table 7
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
The Amount of Land in Designated Wilderness Areas

Montanans were asked their feelings about the amount of land that has been designated as wilderness area . . .	
. . . in the United States	43% said there is an adequate amount 10% said there is too much 39% said they favored the addition of more
. . . in Montana	60% said there is an adequate amount 10% said there is too much 25% said they favored the addition of more

Table 8
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
The Amount of Land in Designated Wilderness Areas in Montana

Montanans were asked what they felt about the amount of land designated as wilderness that is in Montana	
. . . of those who said they were wilderness users	54% said there is an adequate amount 8% said there is too much 34% said they favored the addition of more
. . . of those who said they were wilderness nonusers	61% said there is an adequate amount 10% said there is too much 22% said they favored the addition of more

described themselves as users favored more wilderness in Montana, while approximately 22 percent of the nonusers felt the same way. At the same time, though, about 54 percent of the self-described users felt there was currently an adequate amount of wilderness, which is comparable to the 61 percent of the nonusers who felt the same way.

The wilderness concept

Montanans overwhelmingly approve of setting aside certain federal and state lands as designated wilderness areas. They like the idea of preserving an area from development so that it will be available to future generations.

Almost 85 percent of the Montana Poll respondents said they favored designation of wilderness areas in general. About 52 percent said they were strongly in favor, while the remaining 33 percent were less adamant and replied they were somewhat in favor. Only 11 percent were opposed to wilderness areas.

There is widespread support for wilderness areas among all kinds of Montanans. Regardless of age, sex, political preference, or place of residence, more than 75 percent of the respondents said they favored wilderness areas. Even among nonusers, a whopping 84 percent supported designated wilderness areas.

Those who favored the designation of wilderness areas usually mentioned wilderness preservation as their primary reason. Most cited the need to preserve areas for wildlife habitat, for outdoor recreation, and for future generations so they can see the land as it was. Many (23 percent) said if areas were not specifically set aside, they would be used up or industrialized. A sizable minority (10 percent) favored keeping current wilderness areas, but questioned the need to add more. Some said that if wilderness resources were needed in the future (for housing, jobs, etc.), they should be used.

Why do some people oppose wilderness areas? Since only 11 percent of the Montana Poll respondents said they were opposed, a comprehensive profile cannot be constructed. The reason for opposition cited most often was the need to use the land for other purposes, such as ranching, housing, and jobs. A general opposition to government and government control of lands was the second most cited reason. Some who did not favor wilderness areas said their reason was that these areas are often inaccessible for general use.

Montanans' Knowledge of Wilderness

Most Montanans are fairly well informed about the general character of designated wilderness areas. And it is not just those who visit wilderness areas who are well informed.

The Poll asked respondents a series of questions regarding the general purpose, size, and location of wilderness areas and the activities permitted in them (table 9). Nine of ten respondents were aware that recreation activities in wilderness areas are limited to nonmotorized equipment. And nearly as many recognize that wilderness areas were established primarily to preserve areas in a natural condition.

Most Montanans (from two-thirds to three-fourths) indicated they are aware that most wilderness areas are in the western United States and are managed by the federal government. A similar number knew that wilderness areas are not used to provide timber for lumber and paper.

Fewer, but still a majority, were aware that motorized travel is generally not allowed in wilderness areas. And more than half indicated that developed lodging facilities are not available there.

Montana Poll respondents did fall short when asked about one aspect of wilderness areas. Less than half were aware that most wilderness areas are larger than 5,000 acres.

Responses to these questions (eight in all) were used to develop a "wilderness information index" for each respondent. Three levels of wilderness information or awareness were possible: a *low*

Table 9
What Montanans Told Us About Wilderness Areas in General

Percentage of respondents who know . . .	
. . . most wilderness areas are in the West	75%
. . . most wilderness areas are over 5,000 acres	45%
. . . wilderness areas were established mainly to preserve areas in a natural condition	84%
. . . wilderness areas are managed primarily by the federal government	67%
. . . motorized travel, for the most part, is not allowed in wilderness areas	64%
. . . developed lodging facilities are not available in wilderness areas	56%
. . . wilderness areas are not used to provide timber for lumber and paper	65%
. . . recreation activities in wilderness areas are limited to nonmotorized equipment	91%

information level (two or fewer questions answered correctly), a *medium* information level (three to five questions answered correctly), and a *high* information level (six or more questions answered correctly).

Barely one in ten respondents (only 7 percent) were in the low category. About 41 percent were at the medium level, while 52 percent demonstrated a high level of information. In fact, many in the medium group were actually at the upper end of the scale, correctly answering five of the "information index" questions. Altogether, nearly seven in ten Montanans polled answered five or more questions correctly.

An examination of the demographic characteristics of the Poll respondents—age, sex, residence, employment status, and so on—suggests that men are more likely to fall into the high wilderness information or awareness category. And, not surprisingly, those residing west of the Continental Divide, where most of the state's wilderness areas are located, are more likely to be informed about wilderness than are those living east of the Divide.

One surprise is that, of the Montanans surveyed, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to have a high wilderness information awareness. Some people assume that it is the Democrats who have been the champions of wilderness issues, implying that Democrats are also more knowledgeable about wilderness in general. Apparently this implication is not so.

The Montana Poll also showed that wilderness use or nonuse does not necessarily determine a person's level of wilderness information or awareness. While self-described wilderness users (respondents who said they had visited a wilderness area in the past year) were more likely to fall in the high category, a sizable number (35 percent) did not. And fully half of the nonusers fell in the high category.

What activities are currently allowed?

Montana Poll respondents were also asked whether various specific activities are or are not currently allowed by law in designated wilderness areas. The results show that most Montanans apparently know which recreation activities are allowed, but they are less aware that exploration for and extraction of certain natural resources is also allowed at the present time (table 10).

For example, oil and gas exploration, such as that proposed in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, is permitted under the Wilderness Act until December 31, 1983, providing those undertaking such an activity obtain the necessary permits and conform to federal guidelines. However, six in ten adult Montanans questioned said that such exploration is not currently allowed by law. An even larger majority (nearly eight in ten respondents) believe that oil and gas production is not currently allowed.

Montanans are also unsure about mineral exploration and production (metals and nonmetals). Exploration and mining of minerals is also permitted in designated wilderness areas until the end of 1983 (after that date, mining may continue only on prior claims). Yet the majority of those asked believed these activities are not currently allowed. On the other hand, slightly more than half knew that some sections of wilderness areas continue to be used for cattle and sheep grazing.

Despite the lack of awareness regarding these resource development and use activities, Montanans are very aware of the recreation activities allowed in designated wilderness areas. Perhaps this is in keeping with Poll results discussed earlier. Many Montanans envision a wilderness area as a primitive mountain or forest area set aside for wildlife and outdoor recreation, and recreation activities are certainly more consistent with this image than are resource exploration and development.

Table 10
What Montanans Told Us About Activities That Are or Are Not Permitted in Wilderness Areas

	% Currently Allowed	% Currently Not Allowed
Activities directly involving development or use of commodity-type resources in wilderness areas:		
Cattle or sheep grazing	53%	38%
Oil and gas exploration	38%	60%
Minerals exploration	32%	57%
Timber cutting	21%	71%
Oil and gas production	18%	78%
Mining (minerals production)	18%	72%
Recreation activities involving motorized vehicles and other activities associated with development:		
Resort- type recreation facilities	39%	53%
Roads and road building	32%	70%
General or recreational use of motorized vehicles (such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, motor boats, aircraft, etc.)	25%	68%
Recreation activities not requiring motorized vehicles or developed facilities:		
Backpacking and hiking	98%	1%
Horseback riding	90%	7%
Fishing	96%	3%
Hunting	73%	23%
Activities related to protection of area and users:		
Spraying for insects	40%	56%
Use of motorized equipment or vehicles for rescue or fire control	78%	16%

Note: Percentage detail may not add to 100 because miscellaneous responses have been omitted from the table.

Virtually all Montanans asked said that horseback riding, backpacking and hiking, and fishing are currently allowed in wilderness areas. Fewer, but still a considerable majority (70 percent) were aware that hunting is also allowed.

A majority of Montanans apparently also know that, for the most part, motorized vehicles are not currently allowed in wilderness areas. Seven in ten respondents said that roads and road building are not allowed. Nearly that many indicated that the general or recreational use of motorized vehicles (such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, motorboats, etc.) is not currently allowed. And six in ten were aware that resort-type recreation facilities are not allowed.

As a rule, insect spraying and use of motorized equipment for rescue or fire control are not allowed (they may be permitted under the discretionary powers of the Secretary of Agriculture). Based on the Poll results, Montanans believe that use of motorized equipment for rescue or fire control is permitted (roughly eight out of ten respondents said it is). They are much less sure about insect spraying—48 percent of the respondents said it is allowed, while 36 percent believe it is not, and the remaining 16 percent were uncertain.

Montanans as Wilderness Users

Based on the Poll results, a sizable majority of Montanans consider themselves to be wilderness users or visitors. However, not all of these "visitors," were actual wilderness area visitors or users.

About 70 percent of the respondents said they had visited a designated wilderness area at least once, most (53 percent) within the last five years. About 27 percent of the respondents claimed to have visited such an area within the last year (table 11).

Those who reported visiting a designated wilderness area in the last year were asked to name the area they last visited. About 60 percent of these more recent visitors (or 16 percent of all respondents) accurately named a designated wilderness area and, thus, were "actual users." The rest named other Montana locations which are not wilderness areas.

Virtually all of those actual users (who had actually visited a designated wilderness area) named a Montana wilderness area as the one last visited. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Area was by far the most frequently named of these Montana wilderness areas. Almost half of those who actually visited a wilderness area last year reported visiting the Bob Marshall, and about 15 percent said they had visited the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. The rest named a variety of other Montana wilderness areas, with a very few mentioning an area in another state.

Table 11
What Montanans Told Us About . . .
Their Visits to Wilderness Areas

Visited a wilderness area within the last year	27%
. . . area visited accurately identified as a designated wilderness area	16%
. . . area visited identified as a nonwilderness area	11%
Visited a wilderness area within the last two to five years	26%
Visited a wilderness area over five years ago	17%
Never visited a wilderness area	30%

Many actual wilderness users reported making more than one trip to a wilderness area; seven in ten reported making more than one trip within the last year, and one of ten reported more than ten visits. The median number of visits, though, was two.

An examination of the Poll respondents' demographic characteristics—age, sex, residence, employment status, and so on—reveals a profile of the Montanans most likely to be wilderness users.

Those who actually visited a wilderness area within the last year were more likely to be young (between the ages of eighteen and forty-four), male, students or individuals with at least some college, and from western Montana (where most of the state's wilderness areas are located). However, wilderness use does not seem to depend on income or political preference; Republicans, Democrats and political independents were represented in similar proportions among the user group, as were those from the various income levels.

All Poll respondents were asked if they favored charging wilderness area users a small entry fee or user fee in order to preserve the areas for recreational use. Seven in ten Montanans asked said they were strongly or somewhat in favor of such a fee. The rest (nearly 30 percent) said they opposed the idea, with a large number of those registering strong opposition.

Even wilderness users were favorable toward a wilderness user fee, including those who had actually visited a wilderness area last year. However, those who had never visited a wilderness area were more likely to favor the idea—nearly eight of ten said they were in favor of a wilderness user fee. □

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. I thank all the panelists. We will take a 5-minute break at this point.

[Recess taken.]

Senator MELCHER. We'll proceed again. This is the sixth panel.

STATEMENT OF ELAINE F. SNYDER, KILA, MONT.

Ms. SNYDER. My name is Elaine Snyder, from Kila, Mont. I would like to register my appreciation to the Montana delegation for holding this hearing.

Alternative W would complete the wilderness system with a diverse representation of Montana's rich wildland heritage. It should be balanced with release language without permanent constraints.

When I came into Montana 9 years ago, I wandered through the Kootenai country of Trout Creek and Scotchman Peak. These are the last remaining wild remnants of the Inland Empire.

I reside in the Flathead Valley and over the years have become intimately familiar with the wildlife rich North End areas of Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, and Thompson-Seton, the proposed Swan Crest and the Bob Marshall additions. I heartily endorse these areas as outstanding candidates to our wilderness system.

As an artist, I figure I derive about a third of my income from tourists exploring Montana looking for the distinctive character that is the Old West. Tourists come looking for souvenirs, scenic photos, and an inner sense that captures—and an inner feeling that captures a sense of a vanishing wild America.

Tourism is a healthy, growing, and most significant industry in the Flathead Valley. The Flathead River Basin study economic assessment concludes that 20 percent of the current solid jobs in the Flathead are tourist related. That 90 percent of new jobs with 32 percent of actual new income are from tourist-related jobs. Of course, tourism does not compare income for income with the timber job, but they shouldn't be compared. Tourist jobs are unique to a unique area of the country. The Flathead Valley is the heartland of wildlife, wildlands, wild water, and the scenic mountains majesty that is unique only to Montana, the lower 48 States, and the world. The Flathead Forest plan has determined that primitive, roadless, recreational opportunities demands RPA goals not met for the Flathead will not be met within the next 20 years and beyond. Thus, I feel we need more wilderness in the Flathead to preserve the unique character of the country there. I thank you for this opportunity to speak.

STATEMENT OF ANN MARY DUSSAULT, MEMBER, MISSOULA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ms. DUSSAULT. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, gentlemen. For the record, I'm Ann Mary Dussault, a member of the Missoula County Board of County Commissioners, and I'm speaking on behalf of the commission.

The Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County appreciates the opportunity to comment and submit the following statement, and we wish to focus our comments on one important wilderness resource located in the far western part of Missoula County, the Great Burn.

The U.S. Forest Service has recommended that 177,900 acres of the area be classified as statutory wilderness. The Missoula County Commissioners support this proposal and urge that the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress concur. We also ask for an evaluation of the remaining 64,000 acres as to their value as wilderness and hope that they would be included in the designated area.

In summary, the important resource issues are:

Timber. According to the U.S. Forest Service studies, the Great Burn does not contain a high-quality, timber resource.

Minerals. The U.S. Forest Service lists the Great Burn as noncritical for producing proven and possible minerals.

Recreation. Both RARE I and RARE II state that the Great Burn provides opportunities for outstanding solitude and unconfined primitive recreation.

Cultural. Important archeological sites of cultural value exist within the area.

Science and education. Because of the 1910 fire, the Great Burn provides a unique laboratory, as well as other opportunities for scientific study and wildland education.

Wildlife and fish. U.S. Forest Service lists an unusually high number of wilderness associated species; and

Wilderness quality. In RARE I, the U.S. Forest Service assigned the Great Burn one of the highest ratings in the Nation and equal to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. In RARE II, the Great Burn achieved a rating which put it among the top areas in the U.S. Forest Service region one.

In closing, we would like to address the importance of the wilderness heritage to Montana and the citizens of Missoula County. Missoula is, in reality, a valley within the wilderness, and our quality of life is, to a large degree, dependent upon these wildlands and the values they communicate.

We believe that Missoula County, western Montana and the Nation, would best be served by formally and legally recognizing the wilderness values of the Great Burn.

Signed by Barbara Evans, chairman; Bob Palmer, commissioner; and Ann Mary Dussault, commissioner. Thank you.

[Resolution No. 83-60 follows:]

RESOLUTION NO. 83-60

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GREAT BURN (HOODOO) ROADLESS AREA AS WILDERNESS.

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service has recommended 177,900 acres of this 242,300 acre area be classified as Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, a Great Burn Resource Summary was prepared by the Great Burn Study group; and

WHEREAS, such summary was brought to the Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County, Montana, at a public meeting held on June 1983.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missoula County Board of County Commissioners endorse the Great Burn Roadless Area as recommended by the United States Forest Service as Wilderness and that the remaining 64,000 roadless acres be considered carefully as to their value as Wilderness, and do hereby recognize the extreme value of resources existing in the Great Burn Area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 29th DAY OF JUNE, 1983.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Missoula County, Montana

Barbara Evans, Chairman

Bob Palmer, Commissioner

Ann Mary Dussault, Commissioner

SIGNED ON June 29, 1983.

ATTEST:

Fern Hart, Clerk & Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Michael W. Sehestedt
Deputy County Attorney

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Karl.

STATEMENT OF KARL J. ENGLUND, WEST SLOPE CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED

Mr. ENGLUND. Mr. Chairman, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams. My name is Karl Englund. I'm an attorney practicing law here in Missoula, and I'm here today on behalf of one of my clients, The West Slope chapter of Trout Unlimited. I'm here today because Trout Unlimited, the Montana Wildlife Federation, and the National Wildlife Federation are about to file an administrative appeal of the decision by Regional Forester Tom Coston to grant to the Bonneville Power Administration right-of-way across Forest Service land for the purpose of constructing and operating the Garrison to Spokane transmission project. One of the issues raised in that appeal is the failure of the Forest Service and of Bonneville to comply with the ninth circuit court of appeals decision in *California* v. *Block,* the decision which held that the RARE II process did not comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

It is clear to me and to my clients that a major reason for these hearings is your desire to end the uncertainty created by the *California* decision. It is also clear to us that each of you are concerned that the *California* decision not be abused by Montana conservation organizations while you are in the process of drafting an omnibus Montana wilderness bill. My clients have asked me to appear here today to explain to you the very special nature of our transmission line case. We hope that you will understand that we are not abusing our legal rights under the *California* decision. We hope that our case will not be viewed by you as a reason to abort the process of drafting an omnibus bill in favor of legislation deeming the RARE II environmental impact statement sufficient.

I believe that our case is unique for the following specific reasons: First of all, we have initiated only an administrative appeal to the Chief of the Forest Service. Our case involves only the five RARE II areas on the Lolo National Forest crossed by the transmission line. In other words, our case is not a broad attack upon all resource use on all Montana RARE II properties.

Second, these transmission lines, as I have just said, will affect five RARE II areas with one decision and will render all of these areas utterly unsuitable for future wilderness classification.

Third, neither Bonneville nor the Forest Service have made any attempt, whatsoever, to comply with the *California* decision. The RARE II areas affected by this decision are not even mentioned in the final environmental impact statement. Trout Unlimited firmly believes that this complete failure by two Federal agencies to comply with Federal law cannot go unchallenged.

Fourth, the RARE II issue is just one of several issues raised in our appeal. Because the law requires us to raise all issues of concern with the agency in one consolidated appeal, we felt that we had to rise the RARE II issue at this time.

Finally, prior to May 23, 1983, the date of the record of decision, we informed the Montana department—or excuse me, the Montana

Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, Bonneville and Regional Forester Coston, of the deficiencies in their environmental impact statement. Our desire was to have the agencies correct the problems prior to the record of decision to avoid the expense and delay caused by our appeal. We tried to informally resolve this dispute but to no avail. We have been left with no other option but to exercise our appeal rights.

I hope I have been able to explain our position so that you will understand that we have legitimate concerns and a unique case involving the subject of these most important hearings. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Roland Cheek.

STATEMENT OF ROLAND CHEEK, SWAN CREST WILDERNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. CHEEK. My name is Roland Cheek. I would like to compliment the Senators and Congressman here for this. It's very gratifying to see the responsibility that you are exercising towards your constituents. I just hope that it lasts for a long time.

I would like to correct for the record, although I'm a hunting and fishing guide in Montana, I do not speak for the Montana Outfitters & Guide Association. I speak as an individual and as a representative of the Swan Crest Wilderness Steering Committee. I'm getting tired. I have been involved in this wilderness controversy since 1972, since the RARE I process, and have been involved with it throughout RARE II and clear up to this supposed RARE III and I would sure like to see the controversy settled.

Also, in RARE I there were three areas in the Flathead that were selected: The Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton area, the North Burnt Fork Basin, the Swan Crest, and the area that is now the Great Bear Wilderness. I would submit to you, if those three areas had been adopted as wilderness, we people from the Flathead wouldn't be here today. It would have certainly solved a lot of problems for you people and for us, for myself.

I would like to address, specifically, the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal. It's an area along the Swan Range that's visible for, to practically all of the 46,000 people in Flathead Valley. Those people are, I think—most of those people are vitally interested in protecting the visual qualities of the very important recreational tourist industry, and just the living rooms that they have there in the Flathead. The Flathead Forest plan, I will submit, treats the area pretty kindly. However, I think the leasing controversy now over the Jewel Basin area and the Jewel Basin area, I will say, is the core area for the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal, and that leasing controversy that's going on up there now, demonstrates, I think fairly clearly, that wilderness is the only—congressional wilderness protection is the only firm solution to protecting the important amenity values that we have, and I think that issue lends an urgency to this. I thank you very much.

[The Swan Crest Wilderness proposal follows:]

Swan Crest Wilderness Proposal

ROLAND CHECK

POSITIVE ARGUMENTS FOR A SWAN CREST WILDERNESS

1. The Swan Crest is probably the closest thing to a true "urban wilderness" as can exist in Montana. The area's seventy miles of trails are already in-place and are more accessible to the 50,000 residents of Flathead Valley than trails of any other northwestern Montana Wilderness.

2. The bulk of the area's sixty thousand acres are readily visible from the living rooms of most residents of Flathead Valley. Consequential development of the area would be received hard by most valley residents -- all the more reason why the area should be retained in its natural state.

3. The Swan Crest is of especial geologic significance. At no place along the entire Rocky Mountain chain extending through Canada and on through the United States is the results of the great Cordillerian Ice Sheet so apparent. The Swan Mountains were the eastern buffer as the great glacier gouged and scoured and deposited its way south. Its subsequent retreat left the huge, level, fertile Flathead Valley and that greatest of all liquid gems -- Flathead Lake. Now the Swan Crest serves as an ideal "Journey Into Time" for the thousands seeking a nearby recreational outing. From the range's summit, one can glance about and easily see fifty thousand years into the past as a gigantic ice field flowed relentlessly below. He can glance about him and see wild land along the crest and know it looks precisely the same as it did two hundred years ago as Lewis and Clark toiled through Montana. He can look below at modern, vigorous Flathead Valley to see the present, and one needs but little imagination to see on into the future -- a far more urban and developed valley below.

All the more reason to retain the valley's nearest mountains in their natural state.

4. Most of the area is vital wildlife living-rooms; including much of Flathead's deer and elk winter ranges along the lower reaches of the mountain's lower slopes.

5. The fifteen thousand acre Jewel Basin Area is included.

6. The foremost reason the area is not already developed with a road system and in-place logging is because it could never be done cost-effectively. Future logging up there will require massive doses of public funds. Yours and mine!

7. Normal Wilderness quality spin-offs -- assured water, soil, etc. quality productions -- would also occur.

For more information: Roland Cheek 892-5560

Lex Blood 755-2018

Swan Crest Wilderness proposed

By MARK BRUNSON
Of the Inter Lake staff

The popular Jewel Basin Hiking Area northeast of Bigfork is the centerpiece of a new proposal to ...ate a federally protected wilder... ...s in the northern end of the Swan ...nge.

Members of a citizens' steering ...mittee for the Swan Crest ...lderness announced today that ...ir proposal will include the 15,368-...re Jewel Basin, a high alpine ...gion known for its crystal-clear ...kes, and about 45,000 more acres ...ompassing the higher portions of ...e mountains from Columbia Moun...in south to Sixmile Mountain due ...st of Swan Lake.

The suggested wilderness would take in most of the roadless portion of the northern Swan Range, excluding a few fingers of forest facing Hungry Horse Reservoir and the lowest slopes of Columbia, Doris and Blaine Mountains.

Backers hope the Swan Crest proposal will be included in an omnibus bill which Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., said he would introduce to give final consideration for Montana's lands in the Roadless Area

Continued on A4

More about: Swan Crest

Continued from A1

Review and Evaluation (RARE II) study.

Williams' bill would be designed to set forth, once and for all, which RARE II lands should be designated as wilderness and which should be used in other ways while avoiding the need for another RARE study.

The facets of that bill have not been decided. "We're trying to set the stage now for whenever an omnibus bill is introduced," said steering committee member Roland Cheek.

He said steering committee members are preparing a slide presentation which will be shown to civic groups and chambers of commerce in a bid for their support.

Swan Crest advocates list many reasons why the area should be wilderness. They include the common justifications based on survival of endangered species, fragility of the ecosystem, protection of water quality and preservation of untouched, primeval landscapes.

However, unlike most such proposals, Swan crest would also fit the category of "urban wildernesses" like the Rattlesnake Wilderness outside Missoula, Sandia Peak outside Albuquerque, N.M., and Pusch Ridge near Tucson, Ariz., which received special attention from Congress under the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978.

Because of its close proximity to the Flathead Valley, backers say, Swan Crest would be an easily accessible wilderness whose use would not be confined to those people with the resources or the time to spend days reaching a preferred campsite.

Wilderness designation will attract even more tourists to the valley, said Cheek, a prominent Bob Marshall Wilderness outfitter. He said the Flathead's recreation and tourism industry is "on the brink" of becoming the most important economic force in the valley.

Flathead Valley Community College geologist Lex Blood, another steering committee member, called the Swan Crest "a journey into time" because it shows effects of five glaciation periods as well as the mountain-building process one billion years ago.

The Swan Crest has a long history of wilderness study, dating back to the earliest days of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

American Wilderness Alliance Executive Director Clifton Merritt said the Flathead National Forest sought to include the Jewel Basin area in the original Wilderness Act of 1964, which established the federal wilderness system.

However, he said, the Northern Region forester wouldn't concur with the recommendation. Merritt is a former Flathead resident who was one of the leaders of the effort to preserve Jewel Basin in the 1950s and early 1960s.

The area was again studied for wilderness under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) study released in the late 1970s. Planners eventually recommended uses other than wilderness for all roadless portions of the Flathead forest included in RARE II.

When that study was declared inadequate by a federal appeals court last fall, members of the Montana Wilderness Association and other wilderness proponents began actively pursuing redesignation of the Swan Crest as wilderness.

The Jewel Basin enjoys administrative protection from the Secretary of Agriculture, but Swan Crest backers say that is no longer enough because of threats posed by the recent decision to allow restrictive leasing of the basin for oil and gas exploration.

The entire Swan Crest was considered for inclusion in the so-called "Bob Marshall additions bill" which the MWA and other Montana environmental groups prepared earlier this year. However, most wilderness proponents felt the Swan Crest could stand alone as wilderness better than it could as a northern extension of the Bob Marshall.

Swan Crest marks a 'journey into time'

Editor's note: The following article was written by Lex Blood, a geology instructor at Flathead Valley Community College.

By LEX BLOOD

The climb to the crest of the Swan Range along one of several routes is rewarded, on a clear day, by a magnificent view of the Flathead Valley — Flathead Lake to the west, the mountains of the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas to the east, and Glacier National Park to the north.

The valley, cradled by mountains and marked by the geometric patterns of man's influence, provides breathtaking scenery, but this scenery may also be viewed in another context — as the product of geological processes such as erosion by running water, glacial ice and mountain building forces operating for over one billion years — one fifth of earth's estimated 5-billion year life.

The rocks which compose the Swan Range are formed from sediments deposited in an ancient sea approximately one billion years ago.

The deposition continued for 600-800 million years, interrupted occasionally by periods of uplift and erosion lasting several tens of millions of years. The youngest of these rocks can be seen most anywhere east of the mountains.

Then, approximately 150 million years ago, as North America split off from Europe and the modern Atlantic Ocean began to form, major mountain building forces concentrated along the western edge of the continent started to lift and deform the present-day Rocky Mountains.

As the land throughout western North America, including western Montana, was uplifted, numerous large "slabs" of rock became unstable and, under the influence of gravity, moved up to 40 miles towards the east from an area to the west of the Flathead Valley.

The last step in this mountain-building process was the downward dropping of elongate blocks of the crest resulting in the features we identify today as the valleys of the North, Middle and South Forks, of the Flathead River, and largest of all, the main Flathead/Mission Valley which extends north into Canada for over 800 miles.

This mountain-building period, followed by river and recent glacial erosion has sculptured the topography we see today.

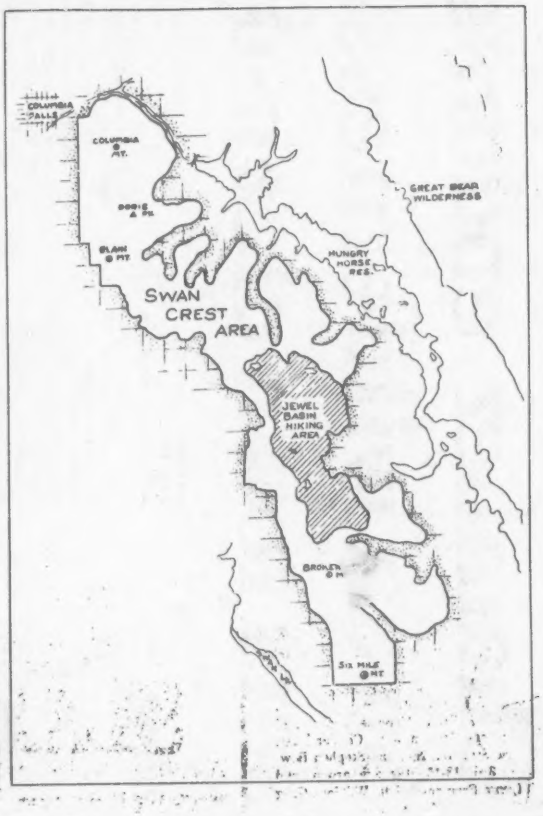
The east edge of the valley along the west facing flank of the Mission and Swan Ranges mark the east boundary of the Rocky Mountain Trench, a major depression in the earth's crust, along which five major ice sheets have advanced from Canada within the past two million years — the last one retreating as recently as 10,000 years ago.

These glaciers which filled the valley, have left their marks even on the highest peaks surrounding the valley. Ice-cut glacial striations and scour can be found on rocks along the crest of the Swan Range; while most of man's activities on the valley floor that can be seen so clearly from the Swan Crest occur on glacially deposited materials.

Flathead Lake, the largest natural body of fresh water west of the Mississippi, as well as Whitefish Lake, are also primarily products of the glacial action — first the scouring of the valley floor, then in each case the deposition of natural dams of glacial material at Polson and Whitefish.

We are heirs to an incredible geologic succession of events. Man's history of activity in the valley is miniscule in comparison. If we were to compress the five billion year geologic time scale of earth's history into a single calendar year, the oldest geologic events in the valley would have started in mid-October and continued to mid-November. The mountain building processes started in the fourth week of December, the glacial periods began three hours before midnight and ended one second before midnight on New Year's Eve. On this scale, man's occupancy can hardly be measured, occurring about 1/100th of a second before midnight — very recent indeed.

From a vantage atop the Swan Crest, one has a sense of both the magnitude of geologic time and the forces that have shaped our home. I think of standing on the Swan Crest, looking down into, and across the lush, productive Flathead Valley as a "journey into time".



Chamber endorses Swan wilderness, sets town clean-up

by L.D. Gross

Being the first community group in the valley to hear the pitch, the Bigfork-Area Chamber of Commerce Friday endorsed the concept of a Swan Crest Wilderness encompassing some 60,000 acres of high country between Sixmile Mountain in the Swan and Columbia Mountain near Columbia Falls.

The group also firmed plans for a Bigfork Cleanup Day April 30 and heard an appeal from Jerry Bygren for volunteers with pickups to help with Bigfork Schools' annual community cleanup slated for April 29, weather permitting.

A plan to give wilderness designation to highland country currently earmarked as roadless area was presented by Roland Cheek, Flathead Valley author and outfitter, and Lex Blood, geology professor from Flathead Valley Community College. Besides having considerable environmental and aesthetic virtues, the site holds appreciable economic significance to the valley, particularly Bigfork, Cheek and Blood stressed.

The two men said proponents hope the Swan Crest can be included in a forthcoming omnibus bill to be submitted by Rep. Pat Williams. See related story for additional details.

The weekend of April 29-30 should see Bigfork and the surrounding communities all slicked up for the season, if the weatherman cooperates. Bigfork Elementary School will be conducting its yearly roadside housecleaning on Friday and a community effort to spruce up the townsite is slated for the following day.

Bygren said the school's efforts will begin at 12:30 p.m. with classes and teachers divided into 11 routes. Area roadsides to be picked up include down to Woods Bay, Holt Drive, Highway 35 out to Streeters, and those to Ferndale and around Bermel's Store. Six to eight volunteers with pickups are needed to help dispense garbage bags and haul trash to county-provided dumpsters to be set up at the Flathead Bank Parking Lot. The Montana Highway Department will also have two trucks taking part, Bygren said, adding that anyone interested in helping can contact him at 837-5050.

The chamber will provide the plastic garbage bags while chamber president, Dick Ettinger, offered to buy ice cream cones for the youthful labor force.

Saturday's cleanup will start bright and early, 6 a.m. to be exact, as Bruce Toole starts a sweepdown of Electric Avenue. Since the dumpsters will still be at the bank lot, everyone in the town is invited to pick up and pitch in. Crews will also be installing "Welcome to Bigfork" signs at either end of town.

The day's activities will be culuminated with a barbecue sponsored by Sam's Place downtown.

Planning continued on the May 21-22 Whitewater Festival. Members learned that in addition to the usual kayak events, children's races and family activities are slated for PP&L Park. A Pee Wee Baseball tournament will span both days at Aero Park in Ferndale. A pool tournament is a possibility at the Waterworks and assorted activities for senior citizens are also being considered.

The chamber was reminded that the Bigfork Child Development Center will again host its annual rummage sale both days at the Flathead Bank.

Chamber secretary Cherie Landon reported that the June *Sunset* magazine will carry a story titled "Chain of Lakes Drive," featuring the 91-miles through the Swan Valley as an alternative to the "heavily traveled Highway 93." Included are brief descriptions of Swan Lake, the Jewel Basin Hiking Area and Bigfork. The article layout tentatively will sport three photographs and a map.

In other business the chamber:

- heard comments from Don Thomson, who helped construct the Village Square renovation model. Thomson said the concept was intended to "generate discussion" and that he now feels the project as presented will not fit into downtown Bigfork. Alternative ideas should be suggested to Bigfork Development Company board members, he said.
- voted to reduce the price of raffle tickets for the Morley cedar-strip canoe from $5 to $2 apiece.
- discussed various options on brochures promoting the area.

LETTERS

Wilderness for Swan Crest, Jewel

Dear Editor:

As one of the Flathead's citizens who led the effort in the 1950s and early 1960s to gain lasting protection for the beautiful Jewel Basin area on the Swan Range west of Kalispell, I am greatly concerned about current plans that would lead to the development of the area and the loss of its primeval character and its wilderness wildlife.

As a longtime Flathead resident, I visited the area on many occasions.

As you may recall, our original proposal was to get the area administratively designated as a Wild Area, to be managed as wilderness. If this had been done, the area automatically would have been included in the National Wilderness Preservation System as a wilderness area when the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964.

Recent events have shown that if the magnificent area is to retain its undeveloped, primeval character, it must have statutory protection as wilderness.

I urge all Flathead citizens to think of the long-range importance of this irreplaceable wilderness, virtually in their backyards, and to join together in support of its designation and management as wilderness under law.

I believe they should also give favorable consideration to enlarging the area to include not only the Jewel Basin Scenic Area but also adjoining undeveloped national forest lands on and along the Swan Crest, as identified by the U.S. Forest Service in 1979 as parts of a roadless area. The area might include the undeveloped roadless area on the Swan Range north of Six Mile Mountain. Consideration should be given whether to make the area a separate Wilderness or designate it as a part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Some additional reasons for designating Jewel Basin as wilderness are:

1. Extremely few cities in the United States have a superb area of wilderness, as do those of the Flathead, close to their city limits--in proximity to many residents and non-resident visitors alike, who can conveniently use and enjoy the area for wilderness purposes.

2. The recreation business is one of the Flathead's leading industries. Quality outdoor recreation is in demand in the Flathead--and the Jewel Basin area provides it. Montana's designated wilderness lands had the fourth largest number of visitor days of use in the United States last year.

3. Jewel Basin is very popular for wilderness hiking, sightseeing, photography, camping and fishing. These uses would be destroyed with development.

4. The area has little operable timber or other known merchantable resources.

5. The area is inhabited by certain species of wildlife which require essentially an undisturbed environment to prosper. Among them are the mountain goat, elk, grizzly bear, mountain lion and pine marten. All would benefit from a wilderness designation and, conversely, all would suffer from development of the area.

6. The Swan Range Crest is a fragile, high-altitude zone which is easily scarred by development and slow to heal.

7. A wilderness designation would protect the undisturbed watersheds of the roadless unit, which drains into the Flathead Valley. This is of major importance to the citizens of the Flathead in their efforts to maintain high-quality water.

So I hope you will move ahead resolutely to get the Jewel Basin Scenic Area and appropriate undeveloped adjoining national forest lands designated and protected as wilderness.

Clifton P. Merritt
Executive Director
American Wilderness Alliance
4260 East Evans Ave.
Suite 8
Denver, CO 80222

Wild Trails and Tall Tales

By Roland Cheek

There are a few places in the mountain west where tourism is a big thing--Jackson Hole in Wyoming, Estes Park, Aspen and Vail in Colorado, Albuquerque and Santa Fe in New Mexico. Montana even has such a place down in West Yellowstone, where people have parlayed some annual wintertime low temperatures and three or four of America's finest trout streams into a booming economy, even during our latest recession/depression.

Jackson, a small town of 4,500 year-'round residents, has 15,000 tourists per day walking its main streets. That translates into a million people each year. They're spending money made elsewhere in Jackson, making that little town into one of our nation's most enterprising communities.

Much the same could be said for those other premier vactionland retreats mentioned above. Beautiful scenery and a pleasant place to dwell have catipulted those communities onto the receiving end of big tourist "megabucks".

It's almost certain the same thing will happen here in the Flathead. Indeed, it is happening here in the Flathead. And why shouldn't it? When one tots up all the natural advantages we have over those Jackson Hole-ites, we win hands down.

They've got Yellowstone, we've got Glacier. They've got some passable ski areas down there, but ours is merely the best one in the whole northwestern United States.

We've got the largest natural freshwater lake in the western United States -- and a whole bunch of other dang nice lakes, too. We've got three Wild Rivers, not just one. We've got mountains just as pretty as the Grand Tetons...and we've got a heckuva lot more of 'em.

We have, surrounding the Flathead Valley, more classified Wilderness country than does Jackson Hole, Estes Park and Vail put together. And there's the Jewel Basin Hiking Area, the National Bison Range, a couple of spectacular Indian Reservations and Canada, only a few miles away...

The Flathead stands on the threshhold of discovery -- it's only a matter of time before tourism dollars roll in here in ever-increasing amounts. And our valley can well use a better-diversified economy -- the last recession showed that! Tourism dollars can complement dollars from agriculture and industry -- that's why I support a Swan Crest Wilderness stretching from Columbia Mountain, outside Columbia Falls, to join the Bob Marshall Wilderness near Swan Lake.

A Wilderness Area in the mountains towering to the east of the Flathead Valley would preserve the natural view we all take for granted today, would preserve agriculture's watershed, enhance the valley's tourism image, and would certainly increase long-term real estate values of Flathead Valley's private landholders.

And there are few other economic trade-offs -- perhaps that's why industry has not, to-date, formally opposed designation of a Swan Crest Wilderness.

When it's all counted up, a Swan Crest Wilderness would serve the best interests of the most people. I hope you'll support it, too.

Generally Speaking

A call for reason in wilderness debate

George Mielke

The war of wills continues in the on-going debate over a proposed wilderness designation for some 60,000 acres of mountain land facing the Flathead Valley.

The most vocal participants in the battle to date have been opponents of the plan, bringing to light major concerns of business and industry, and sometimes minimizing and deprecating the views of those who see Swan Crest as a good thing.

Far from being a strictly local issue, news of the conflict between conservationists and exploitationists has found headlines in leading publications throughout the country.

The latter nametag may seem inflammatory to some, hopefully proving that there is another side to the coin. The flipside is best epitomized by an article in a recent issue of "Nation's Business" which described the opponents as "balanced land-use advocates and environmental purists."

"Wildernuts" is another of the derogatory nouns leveled at proponents of the plan.

Name-calling of this kind has no place in an intelligent debate, especially one that will ultimately determine the future of such a precious commodity as the land in question.

The arguments concerning this proposed wilderness designation should be judged according to their merits, with cold, honest reason instead of the impassioned rhetoric of squabbling children.

Despite the current flurry of anti-wilderness sentiment, the positive arguments for a Swan Crest Wilderness remain valid.

Those who claim the tourist industry has only a "seasonal bearing" on local business overlook the long-range positive impact that visual preservation of our eastern view will have on the appeal of real estate to prospective retirees, resort developments, tourist-related commercial ventures and others.

And those who minimize the value of the plan by saying its reliance on preservation of "the view" is its only strong point fail to take into account the area's geologic significance, its present "untouched" wilderness qualities, the fact that some 70 miles of trails are already in place and accessible to those seeking a wilderness retreat.

A wilderness designation would relinquish man's opportunity to manage, exploit, develop (call it whatever you want) this particular parcel of rugged beauty. Anyone who questions the wisdom of such a move need only look at present threats to Jewel Basin.

Generally speaking, it's hard to imagine that man could improve on what has already been created by a divine developer.

FACTS VS MYTHS

SWAN CREST WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Myth 1. Flathead Valley will lose job opportunities if a Swan Crest Wilderness is designated.

A. According to the Flathead Forest Plan, only 750M board feet of timber per year could be sustained within the proposed Wilderness. Using the industry's own economic tables, that 750M loss (from the 130MM annual Flathead Forest harvest) translates into five (5) jobs. The area, as a Wilderness, would be far more economically productive to the recreational industry.

Myth 2. The present heavy metals industry located near Columbia Falls would be threatened through a change of air quality standards if a Swan Crest Wilderness was designated nearby.

A. A Swan Crest Wilderness would receive a class II air quality rating --- the same standard as the area presently receives.

Myth 3. Motorized recreation enthusiasts would be displaced from a Swan Crest area.

A. Actually, the rugged mountain range is so slightly used by recreational vehicles no estimates of use are available. The new Flathead Forest Plan designates the area for motorized roadless recreation -- including a large trail-less area near Six Mile Mountain. Is that an indicator of just how little is really known about motorized recreation in the Swan Range?

Myth 4. The Swan Range is well-treated in the new Flathead Forest Plan, therefore this important scenic backdrop to Flathead Valley will always remain Protected.

A. The current leasing of the Jewel Basin Hiking Area for hydrocarbon exploration proves the fallacy of the above assumption. The Jewel Basin -- core area of the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal -- is supposed to be proof of Forest Service ability to maintain administrative protection of an important recreational area. Congressional Wilderness designation has proven to be the <u>only</u> certain status for retaining our heritage for future generations. Given the visual importance of the Swan Range to Flathead Valley's tourism and recreational industries, and to the quality of life enjoyed by the valley's 46,000 residents, a Swan Crest Wilderness is the only <u>certain</u> way to maintain the current aesthetic visual qualities.

Myth 5. When a Wilderness is established, a "buffer zone" will often be added at a later date. That "buffer zone" will include many important viable timber stands now allocated for timber harvests.

A. A "smoke screen"! Though often advanced as a legitimate reason for opposition, no one has ever been able to point to a previous example of a "buffer zone" of non-development occurring around any Montana Wilderness. (I don't no of any around any American Wilderness.) Certainly, it is not the intent of the framers of the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal to advocate a "buffer zone".

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF BARNEY JETTE, SEELEY LAKE, MONT.

Mr. JETTE. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and express my views on our remaining wildlands in RARE II. I am a resident of the Swan Valley in Flathead National Forest. My grandparents homesteaded in the valley in 1912 when it was virtually all wild country. Today we are deciding the future of a small portion of these lands which remain wild and unroaded.

The increasing use of our wilderness areas in Montana has gone up tremendously in the last few years. The Forest Service has put more and more restrictions on the private sector, as well as the commercial guides and outfitters, because of the overuse.

The wilderness areas and the remaining wild country is one of Montana's greatest resources. We have to examine these remaining lands carefully to insure the land is used to its highest potential and not for a short-term profit. Many areas in the RARE II boundaries are steep, rugged mountains with little or no timber potential. In other areas, on the other hand, these areas have extremely high wilderness potential. In order to guarantee that these areas are kept wild, to which they are best suited, we need wilderness protection.

I have traveled extensively throughout the Swan Front and I strongly recommend this area to have wilderness protection. It is an extremely steep area with high hidden valleys, with little or no timber. The Flathead Forest plan has allocated this area their strongest prescription, nonroaded dispersed recreation. It is an area that is extremely important to wildlife and particularly grizzly bear, water quality and recreation plus being a buffer to the Bob Marshall Wilderness system. Swan Front is a portion of alternative W which I support. I support this alternative statewide and recommend a soft release for the remaining land as I feel this will have the lowest impact on the land and thus be utilized to its greatest potential. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JOHN GATCHELL, PRESIDENT, FLATHEAD CHAPTER, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. GATCHELL. Thank you, Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, and Representative Williams for being here today to listen to us citizens and other representatives. My name is John Gatchell. I am self-employed, the owner of a small construction business in Columbia Falls. I should say a fledgling construction business, and I currently serve as president of the Flathead chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Flathead conservationists have walked and studied roadless lands here in question for many years participating in both RARE I and RARE II. Among our membership are some individuals who know these lands as well as anyone alive.

Out of their knowledge of these lands has come a clear consensus, and it was recently reaffirmed by a unanimous vote at the chapter board of directors, and our recommendations are as follows: The inventoried roadless lands of the Mission Mountain addi-

tions, one through seven, Griffin, Tally Mountain, Grubb, the East Shore Roadless area new Big Fork, Swan River Island, and in LeBeau area should not at this time be included in the national wilderness preservation system. You may wish to note that there are ongoing or planned timber sales, as well as oil and gas activities in these areas at this time, most of these areas.

Second, we support the inclusion of the remaining wildlands of Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton, and Mount Hefty, known as the North End or the North Burnt Fork Basin wildlands, adjacent to the British Columbia border.

Third, the chapter membership supports wilderness designation along the roadless length of the Swan Range as proposed by the Swan Citizens Steering Committee and the proposed Swan Front addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness system.

Last, we continue our longstanding support for alternative, as a way of working together with our neighbors across Montana for a comprehensive bill.

Some earlier, basically, I think, are echoing the cry that there is too much wilderness on the Flathead. And that cry seemed to be echoed in the bureaucratic recommendations of the RARE II process, and I think it's interesting to note now that that process has been legally discredited and one of the reasons is for its failure to be site specific. The draft forest plan, which contains a great deal of useful information contains a diagram displaying the forest as a, basically as a homogenous pie which is divided up neatly, but the forest is not. It's a diverse, very diverse landscape, and I think the important thing is that amongst that landscape are thousands of acres of nonforest, thousands of acres of marginal forest lands which will never become good timber producing land. You can't squeeze water out of a rock, no matter how much money is thrown at those lands.

Second, that amongst those lands of these roadless lands are lands that the National Park Service might well envy for their qualities, and I would like to mention a few specific pieces of information. I went through in comparison with the Flathead Forest plan, if you will just pardon me for a second, and I compared our proposal in areas proposed in timber management so you would get some idea of what sort of conflicts might be involved. And this is only a proposed plan, of course, and that is in the, and these are rough figures, I should also caution you, but we have proposed a total of about 213,000 acres of the roadless lands in the Flathead be designated wilderness, and of those, well over 90 percent are not scheduled for timber harvest, so there is a great deal of room for agreement here, and there is a maximum potential of about 17,000 acres of conflict, and even amongst that there is a great deal of land that includes avalanche slopes, rocky slopes, lakes, bogs, over 45° slopes. So even that is marginal land, and so to summarize, I would just like to say that to say that there is too much wilderness in the Flathead is akin to saying there is too much black dirt in Creston, Mont., or too much sagebrush in Petroleum County, or too much parking space in downtown Missoula. You have to consider, and we are asking you to please consider, the nature of the lands that are out there. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gatchell follows:]

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

U S SENATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC LANNDS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING
July 5,1983- Missoula Montana

My name is John Gatchell.I am self-employed,the owner of a small construction business in Columbia Falls,Montana.I currently serve as president of the Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Flathead conservationists have walked and studied the wild areas in consideration here today for many years,participating in both Rare I and RareII.Amongst our membership are some individuals who know these lands as well as anyone alive.

Out of their knowledge of these lands has come a clear consensus recently reaffirmed by a unanimous vote of the Chapter Board of Directors:

1) The inventoried roadless lands of the Mission Mtn Additions 1 through 7,Griffin,Tally Mtn,Grubb,the East Shore Roadless Area near Bigfork,Swan River Island,and the LeBeau area should not at this time be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. You may wish to note that there are ongoing or planned timber sales, and oil and gas activitys in most of the above-mentioned areas.

2) We support the inclusion of the remaining wildlands of Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton,and Mt Hefty known as the North Fork or North End Roadless area,adjacent to the British Columbia border.

3) The Chapter membership supports wilderness designation along the Roadless length of the rugged Swan Range.We support the North Swan Crest-(including the Jewel Basin)as proposed by the Swan Citizen's Steering Committee and the proposed Swan Front addition to the Bob Marshall,as endorsed by the Bob Marshall Alliance.

4) We continue our long-standing support for "Alternative W",

"There's too much wilderness in the Flathead" some contend.That cry seem to be echoed in the bureacratic recommendations of RareII, a process now legally discredited for it's failure to be "site-

Testimony,John Gatchell,July 5,1983

-specific".The draft Forest Plan contains a diagram,displaying our Forest as a pie,neatly divided up .Forty-five percent slice for wilderness.

But the Flathead National Forest is not a homogenous pie.It is a landscape extraordinary in it's diversity.And there remains @ 350,000 acres of roadless and wild lands the fate of which we today consider.

What we are asking you to consider,Senator,are the actual values and characteristics of the lands in question,as you prepare to draft legislation on these wilderness lands.

Consider for a moment,that there are among these Flathead wildlands,thousands of acres of non-forest.There are thousands of acres of marginal forestlands which will never become good long-term timber producing sites no matter how much money we throw at them. Consider,too,that thousands of these acres are even now in July,under snow.

Before you slice up these wildlands,please take a look at what what's inside.Outside the mantle of wilderness protection,lie lands that the National Park Service would envy.There are hanging glaciers, carved rock walls,steep canyons,the gem-like lakes the Swan is well known for.There are majestic cedar groves and dozens of mighty falls even now thundering with the snowmelt waters of their upper basins.

Consider for one moment,the future value of wild places of a more subtle nature,a remote burned over valley,so isolated and open it could be a piece of Alaska you've entered when you enter the Tuchuck,a huge unmistakable track in the trail.

We are asking you,Senator, not to close the door on values that are out there,not to determine the fate of these public lands by gross percentage.

To say there is too much wilderness in the Flathead country, is like saying there's too much black dirt in Creston,MT;too much sagebrush in Petroleum County,or perhaps too much parking space in downtown Missoula.

On behalf of the Flathead Chapter/MWA, I sincerely thank you for this opportunity to discuss the future of our remaining wildlands.We will be happy to furnish you with any further information on these public lands.

Sincerely,

John Gatchell

John Gatchell
President,
Flathead Chapter

Senator MELCHER. Dr. Craighead isn't here.

Mr. FISCHER. Dr. Craighead asked me to read his statement. He's in Alaska right now.

STATEMENT OF DR. JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD, DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE-WILDLANDS INSTITUTE, AS PRESENTED BY HANK FISCHER

Mr. FISCHER. I'm the director of the Wildlife Wildlands Institute, a private and nonprofit wildlife research organization affiliated with the University of Montana in Missoula. I'm a former leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and professor of zoology and forestry at the University of Montana. Out of a lifelong interest and concern to wilderness, I'm submitting this statement urging a statewide Montana RARE II bill that will finally designate wilderness and nonwilderness forest lands throughout Montana.

I strongly recommend all proposed annexes to the Bob Marshall and fully support the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness that have been proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance. In addition, there are other proposed wilderness areas within the State I have either worked in professionally or visited briefly that are essential to round out the State's wilderness system. In order of priority, these are:

One, the Selway-Bitterroot addition of 10,000 acres encompassing the highly scenic valley of the South Burnt Fork Basin of Lolo Creek with the northern slopes of Lolo Peak, including the Carlton Lakes. Besides being an extremely beautiful area, this area protects a portion of the watershed of Lolo Creek and is excellent elk habitat and potential grizzly bear habitat.

Two, the Mission Mountains Wilderness addition of 9,400 acres of high lakes and critical grizzly bear habitat along the southern edge of the Mission Mountains.

Three, the Great Burn addition of 91,700 acres which is an integral part of the Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem. The area contains subalpine lakes and rough mountain terrain which is still in relatively early stages of plant succession and, as such, is excellent elk habitat. It's extremely important that this land be added to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in order to make it a more near complete ecosystem as possible.

Four, the Sheep Mountain addition of 32,000 acres of subalpine lakes along the crest of the Bitterroot Range.

Five, the 72,000-acre tract which encompasses the Northern Swan Crest which is a highly scenic backdrop to the Flathead Valley.

Six, the Gallatin National Forest North Absaroka Wilderness addition of 3,000 acres in two areas.

Seven, the Bitterroot National Forest addition of 48,200 acres in 13 areas would give protection to the beautiful granitic canyons on the western edge of the Bitterroot Valley.

There are numerous other proposed additions for the Deerlodge, Beaverhead, Kootenai, Custer, Lewis and Clark National Forests. I feel the guiding theme for setting priority for wilderness areas in these forests should be whether they supplement existing wilderness. Wherever an established wilderness area can be enlarged and

made a more self-supporting unit for species of wildlife, an annexation should be given prime consideration.

With proper consideration of the task at hand and with concern for future generations, a groundwork can be laid at these hearings for three distinct natural wilderness ecosystems. These are:

One, the greater Yellowstone ecosystem composed of Yellowstone National Park, adjoining wilderness and RARE II areas under consideration.

Two, the Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem composed of the Selway-Bitterroot-Salmon River Wildernesses and adjoining land additions currently being reviewed.

Three, the Western Montana Mountain ecosystem composed of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness and the adjoining proposed additions.

The fulfillment of such a legacy of wealth and beauty is within the power and vision of this committee. It is highly unlikely that any other people at any other time and history could fashion such a visionary endowment for posterity. It would be a sign of our faith in the Nation's future, a declaration of its strength in the present and an unprecedented show of grassroots wisdom. Thank you for considering my comments.

Senator MELCHER. Donna Metcalf.

STATEMENT OF DONNA METCALF, HELENA, MONT.

Ms. METCALF. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congresman Williams. I'm Donna Metcalf of Helena, Mont., and I come to you today speaking not to represent any organization but as one of your constituents.

I was born in Missoula but spent most of my youth in Wallace, Idaho, where my family still maintains a home.

This means that over the years I have become familiar with areas on the Lolo National Forest, in the Kootenai National Forest which lies close to the Idaho Panhandle.

In the context of Montana conservationist's alternative W proposal, I would like to call the committee's attention to two areas: The first identified as the Great Burn, is one segment of the extensive area swept by the 1910 fire. It has significance both as a historical record where ghostly snags and barren ridges still convey the power of the devastation that swept this country, and as an area suited to research and study of the different stages of natural restoration and renewal that have occurred in the past 73 years.

Many of the valleys and the bottoms in and adjacent to the Idaho Panhandle were once paved with massive western red cedar. Wherever civilization impacted, these are gone. Highways and communities drained their swamps and cut them away. One of the largest remaining groves of western red cedar stands on the Kootenai Forest is in the Scotchman Peaks wildlands. It, too, preserves a small record of Montana's natural history that cannot hope to survive without protection.

The economic picture of conservation and protection in Montana is frequently distorted. Since until today much defacto wilderness has existed in Montana, we have enjoyed an enhancement of living about which it has been easy to make complacent assumptions.

The value of this enhanced lifestyle is not lost on visitors to our State. The report of the Governor's council on economic development, January 13, 1983, estimates that economic value of travel and tourism in Montana at over $1 billion annually. And the number of jobs supported by it as 20,000.

It is a stable and growing factor in our economy, but it is dependent wholly upon our ability to preserve watersheds, to protect the resources upon which hunting and fishing depend and to provide territory for the unique sort of recreations to be found only in our wildlands.

If we cannot have commitment for the protection of these resources, we cannot hope to sustain this particular economic advantage for Montana. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our opinions on these matters.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Thanks to all the panel.

STATEMENT OF GARY A. LANGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. LANGLEY. My name is Gary Langley, I reside in Helena, Mont., where I'm employed as executive director of the Montana Mining Association.

The Montana Mining Association represents every major producer of nonfuels minerals in Montana, as well as companies that are actively conducting natural exploration efforts.

As a matter of policy, the Montana Mining Association is opposed to the creation of any additional wilderness areas in Montana. Our association is in full support of the wilderness concept but believes sufficient land has been set aside for that purpose. In the future, we believe the Congress should exercise the good judgment to allocate public lands for its maximum usefulness, that is multiple use. To that end, we hope these hearings will bring a final resolution to the wilderness controversy.

In Montana, 3.2 million acres already has been set aside for wilderness. Another 1.6 million acres is either being proposed for wilderness or being studied. This adds up to nearly 5 million acres for multiple users are being frustrated in their attempts to either develop their natural resources or engage in motorized recreation.

Wilderness study areas have imposed sometimes unreasonable and impracticable limitations on the ability of private enterprise to explore for and develop minerals on public land. At a time when our Nation is dependent on politically, unstable sources for strategic minerals, it would seem only sensible to open more public lands for exploration and development. However, because of the continuing wilderness controversy, the exact opposite has been true.

Mineral development is unique when compared to other natural resource uses. Mineral development can only occur where minerals are found.

In most forests of Montana, mineral potential is high, particularly for gold, copper, silver, platinum, and palladium. Indeed, there is substantial mineral potential in existing wilderness areas such as the Cabinet Mountains, where active exploration is occurring. This indicates the need for discreet decisionmaking in future land use

planning and raises the question as to whether there was a rush to judgment when existing wilderness areas were created.

Improved technology and economics can justify the exploration and development of previously uneconomic deposits. The mining industry is capable of exploration and development in an environmentally responsible manner.

Roadless areas are our last frontier for mineral exploration. It would be a grave mistake to prohibit that exploration by creating more wilderness areas.

We have already set aside an adequate percentage of our land base to remain untouched for future generations. It would now seem wise to ascertain a mineral inventory for use by future generations.

It has become increasingly disturbing to me and the companies and the individuals I represent that opening public lands to mining has been depicted by the media and environmental groups resulting in the wholesale destruction of our lands. The fact is that in the entire history of our Nation, only three-tenths of 1 percent of our lands have been disturbed by development of all minerals, including strip mining and oil and gas developments. Most of that land has been reclaimed.

It is the belief of the Montana Mining Association that the public interest would be best served if lands currently being studied for wilderness are released. It is our further belief that the Forest Service has sufficiently studied these areas under RARE II.

Let's not rush into the bramble of more wilderness areas until we are certain that our national interest and the economic well being of our citizens are being served.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Herb Nash.

STATEMENT OF HERB NASH, DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL

Mr. NASH. I'm Herb Nash from Superior, Mont., and Diamond International. It has been stated many times by the Forest Service, the Governor, congressional delegates and members of the wilderness advocacy groups, that wilderness classification should not jeopardize the stability of timber dependent communities. Significant amounts of commercial forest lands have been included under the current RARE II wilderness recommendations and further planning areas.

Diamond International, therefore, recommends to Senator Melcher and members of the Montana congressional delegation to legislate sufficiency and release language for the Forest Service recommendations made pursuant to the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, RARE II, studies and the recommendation to Congress for designating portions for nonwilderness and wilderness in the State of Montana.

For the past 6 weeks, wilderness people and industry members have been analyzing some of the areas on the Lolo National Forest. Many of the areas analyzed have been proposed for nonwilderness by both sides, wilderness and industry. Areas with complex and conflicting problems are still being analyzed by both sides.

01795, South Siegel, 17,600 acres, 193 million board feet of growing stock, a programed harvest of 1.6 million and an annual growth of 351,000 per acre recommended nonwilderness.

01796, North Siegel, 10,000 acres, 106 million feet of growing stock, a programed harvest of 1 million and an annual growth of 334,000 feet per acre nonwilderness.

C1799, Sheep Mountain State Line, 40,500 acres, 364.5 million board feet of growing stock, a programed harvest of 3.1 million and an annual growth of 247 million per acre. C1799 Sheep Mountain State Line is in committee being analyzed by both sides, wilderness and industry. It also has sales proposed for the area, much of the area and the areas on the Idaho side are proposed as nonwilderness.

Q1301, The Great Burn (Hoodoo) is being analyzed by both sides, wilderness members and industry, because of complex conflicts. Q1301, the Great Burn has 65,097 acres—I think that was the total burn there. I should have put that in there—628 million board feet of growing stock. A programed harvest of 4.5 million and an annual yield of 3.7 million board feet. On that one we suggested boundary changes, and thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Herb.

John Balla.

STATEMENT OF JOHN C. BALLA, MANAGER, NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC

Mr. BALLA. I'm John Balla, I'm manager of the Northwestern Electric. Asarco welcomes the opportunity to present our views to you on a specific RARE II area. We, as many others, wish to see the RARE II process end and we really do not wish to see a RARE III.

In the brief time available, I wish to focus our attention on one specific RARE II area, the Scotchman Peaks, No. 1-662 on the Kootenai National Forest. The proposed Scotchman Peaks area is highly mineralized. The U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines in a study that they did on behalf of the wilderness study found the area was mineralized to various degrees in many areas within the proposed wilderness. Asarco, with other mining companies, has been exploring the Scotchman Peaks areas for a number of years. There are two specific areas that are of particular interest to Asarco, and which we feel should be excluded from any proposed wilderness classification. The first is what we call the JF area, which comprises the entire ridge on the south side of Ross Creek. This ridge has been logged and roaded due to beetle infestation a number of years ago and in several areas, and simply does not meet the qualifications for wilderness area. In addition, prospecting by various prospectors since 1963 and drilling by Asarco since 1976, has found and proved the existence of a significant tonnage of ore grade mineralization similar to that presently being mixed immediately to the north of our Troy mine. We believe that the reserves drilled today at our JF project will extend the life of the Troy mine, and hence, will continue the employment opportunities for the approximately 350 people presently working at the Troy mine.

In addition to this area, exploration by Asarco in the Cub Creek area, 4 miles west of our Troy mine on the north end, has identified an area which has the exploration potential for similar deposits as exist at Troy. This area is in a very preliminary stage of exploration, so we have less knowledge of it than at JF. Nevertheless, we believe that this area should also be removed from wilderness——

Senator BAUCUS. Excuse me, what do you call that area?

Mr. BALLA. It's called Cub Creek. It's just south and a little bit west of Star Lake.

In conclusion, Asarco recognizes the need for wilderness and a need for lands to be available for multiple use. We believe that in the Scotchman Peaks area we have the opportunity to provide areas for a variety of people and interest. In this regard, I'm pleased to report that we are talking with Mike Comola and Bill Cunningham and John McBride and hope that we will be able to resolve the Scotchman Peaks area to everyone's mutual satisfaction.

We will be submitting to you, as part of our written testimony, specific recommendations and supportive data for the boundary for the Scotchman Peak and we thank you very much for the opportunity to convey our thoughts to you on this subject.

STATEMENT OF ALAN SOLUM, ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER, LOCAL NO. 768, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW)

Mr. SOLUM. Thank you, Senator Melcher. My name is Alan Solum. I am 43 years old and one of the truly endangered species. I'm a native born Montanan, still in residence and still employed. And I'm a journeyman lineman by trade and I'm presently the assistant business manager of local union 768 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

My testimony here today is on behalf of myself as a wage earner and provider, on behalf of my local union members as their paid representative, and on behalf of the Western Montana Building and Construction Trades Council with which my local is affiliated.

Most especially, I am here as a citizen who is disturbed by the seemingly endless array of studies, counterstudies, and catch-22 situations that have entrenched themselves so deeply into our decisionmaking process as to render it an impotent mockery of our history. Had my parents' generation been so limited in their capacity to act, we would not be concerned about the economic impact of foreign commodities. We would be speaking the language.

I will be submitting written testimony for the record from each of these voices.

I would rather that time had allowed me the opportunity to speak to the issue before us, and in some comprehensive manner, but, as it doesn't, the most viable alternative is to express to you my concern that the testimony I submit not be relegated simply to an "aye" or "nay" punch on some computer somewhere. But if that be the intent of this hearing, then count me among those here today who are saying "yes," the RARE II study has raised the essential issues and they have been weighed. Let us get on with the

business at hand and not be remembered as the generation who, in the pursuit of perfection, did nothing. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF KEITH L. OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION

Mr. OLSON. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams. My name is Keith Olson, I'm the executive director of the Montana Logging Association. I reside in Kalispell. On behalf of the 325 independent logging contractors who comprise the Montana Logging Association, we sincerely appreciate this opportunity to testify on the need for sufficiency and release language for the Forest Service recommendations made pursuant to the RARE II studies.

Please remember that as loggers, Montana's forests are more than a place where we work and recreate. Montana forests are where we live. Furthermore, since our influence is only that of a State organization, we sincerely hope there hearings will actually lead to Federal legislation to resolve the stalemate created by the *California* RARE II decision.

The time has long since past when the courts and Congress should have left management of this Nation's natural resource lands to resource managers. yet, as we speak today, 5 million acres in Montana remain locked up where the principal beneficiary appears to be the mountain pine beetle, the spruce beetle, and the spruce budworm. All set-aside timber lands, regardless of their literal designation, are, in fact, breeding grounds for the destructive natural enemies that prey on our timber resources.

As loggers, we have no qualms with the restricted uses prescribed for our national parks and wilderness areas. However, if we are to permit these set-aside areas to become reservoirs of infestation, should we not be allowed to confront these infestations immediately beyond the boundaries of these reserves?

Timber harvesting appears to be the sole acceptable method of effectively confronting insect epidemics. The vast majority of timber harvested in Montana is done so by small businessmen, the average of which employs less than 10 people, Montana's independent logging contractor. Their survival is threatened, however, because the mill whom they contract for or sell logs to may be discouraged from investing in their facilities due to an uncertain timber supply.

Timber supply is no great mystery. We know we can only harvest what we grow, but what we grow is dictated by our timber base. Montana's timber base is currently uncertain because of the stalemate created by the *California* RARE II decision. If Montana's timber industry is to prosper, if our mills are to invest in the future, if independent logging contractors are to survive, Montana's timber lands must be released for multiple use management.

[The prepared statment of Mr. Olson follows:]

MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1716, Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 755-3185

TESTIMONY

OF
KEITH L. OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

CONDUCTED BY
SENATOR JOHN MELCHER

AT
MISSOULA, MONTANA
ON
TUESDAY, THE 5TH OF JULY, 1983

SENATOR MELCHER, CONGRESSMAN WILLIAMS:

ON BEHALF OF THE 325 INDEPENDENT LOGGING CONTRACTORS WHO COMPRISE THE MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION, WE APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THE NEED FOR SUFFICIENCY AND RELEASE LANGUAGE FOR THE FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO THE RARE II STUDIES.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT, AS LOGGERS, MONTANA'S FORESTS ARE MORE THAN A PLACE WHERE WE WORK AND RECREATE. . .MONTANA'S FORESTS ARE WHERE WE LIVE. FURTHERMORE, SINCE OUR INFLUENCE IS ONLY THAT OF A STATE ORGANIZATION, WE SINCERELY HOPE THESE HEARINGS WILL ACTUALLY LEAD TO FEDERAL LEGISLATION WHICH WILL RESOLVE THE STALEMATE CREATED BY THE CALIFORNIA RARE II DECISION.

THE TIME HAS LONG SINCE PASSED WHEN THE COURTS AND CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE LEFT MANAGEMENT OF THIS NATIONS NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS TO RESOURCE MANAGERS. YET, AS WE SPEAK TODAY, 5 MILLION ACRES IN MONTANA, REMAIN LOCKED UP, WHERE THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY APPEARS TO BE THE MOUNTAIN PINE BETTLE, THE SPRUCE BEETLE AND THE SPRUCE BUDWORM. ALL SET-ASIDE TIMBERLANDS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LITERAL DESIGNATION ARE, IN FACT, BREEDING GROUNDS FOR THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURAL ENEMIES WHICH PREY ON OUR TIMBER RESOURCE.

Testimony (continued)

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Timber harvesting appears to be the sole acceptable method of effectively confronting insect epidemics. The vast majority of timber harvested in Montana is done so by small businessmen, the average of which employs less than 10 people. . .independent logging contractors. Their survival is threatened, however, because the mills whom they contract for, or sell their logs to, may be discouraged from investing in their facilities due to an uncertain timber supply.

Timber supply is no great mystery. We know we can only harvest what we grow. But what we grow is dictated by our timber base. Montana's timber base is currently uncertain because of the stalement by the California RARE II decision.

If Montana's third largest industry is to prosper; if our mills are to invest in the future; if independent logging contractors are to survive; Montana's timberlands must be released for multiple use management.

Senator Melcher, Congressman Williams, you have both recently implied that it's time to make some tough decisions. As loggers, we hope you do and we pray you make them soon.

Tough decisions are necessitated by conflicts. Conflicts are bred by emotions, and emotions on all sides of resource issues run high. May we respectfully suggest that common sense is not an emotion and, therefore, may be the key to making those tough decisions?

Perhaps you will confer our suggestion to your colleagues in Congress and as you do extend, also, our quiet desperation for final resolution of the RARE II issue.

Charles R. Newton
Box 155
Eureka, Montana 59917

Subject: Rare II Hearings in Montana

I am presenting written testimony in gegards to the proposed Ten Lakes Wilderness Area. I would prefer to present oral testimony but my job will not allow me to take a day off to travel to Missoula to testify.

I have been a resident of the Eureka area for thirty eight of my forty years and have been a visitor in the Ten Lakes Area on a regular basis since I was twelve years old.

I do not feel this area is a good candidate for wilderness status.

There are 15,000-20,000 acres in this area that are very beautiful and probably should not be altered by man now or in the forseeable future. I'm confident the Forest Service can adquately protect this 15,000-20,000 acres with a scenic area designation as they are presently proposing in their fifty year management plan. The remainder of this area should be released for multiple use.

There are several reasons why I prefer multiple use for the majority of this area. One of my primary reasons is the big game populations in this area. When I was a teenager, elk and whitetail deer were virtually nonexistent in the Ten Lakes Area, now they are both very common. As an example my family and I spent about two hours in this area last week and sighted seven elk and numerous deer from our vehicle, although we didn't see a grizzly, sightings have been commonplace in the old clearcuts.

The reason for this increase in big game is the logging that took place during the 50's and 60's generated browse. These old logging sites are rapidly regenerating young trees and will soon be lost for browse. If some new logging is not permitted soon our game will begin to decline. When I speak of logging I'm refering to five acre or smaller clearcuts or preferably selective and salvage logging that would allow browse to generate.

Another item of great concern to me in the lower and middle elevations of this area is insects. There is a serious infestation of spruce bark beetles. These bugs can be controlled with selective logging if it is done soon and the majority of the trees will be saved to provide cover for game or to be logged later when the game is again in need of browse.

The clear alternative to an agressive insect control program implemented soon is clearly evident by looking from Ten Lakes to Canada where fire has blackened hundreds of thousands of acres in years past. These massive burns will provide unlimited browse for a few years and then will become of little value to big game for perhaps a century while another stand of timer is maturing.

I am also one of many who enjoys snowcatting in this area. I feel Ten Lakes is most beautiful in March and April from the seat of a snowcat. I'm sure you have heard about our alleged caribou track sighted in 1982. I am one of many, including some wildlife biologists, who doubt this track was a caribou track. I have been hearing rumors of caribou in the area for as long as I can remember but I've yet to meet the man that has actually seen one.

I wouldn't be greatly surprised if one did pass through the area on rare occasions but it is so seldom I don't feel, caribou should have any bearing on whether this area gets a wilderness or multiple use classification.

In summary I feel giving Ten Lakes a wilderness classification will be detrimental to a stable big game population, will decrease visual qualities because of the fires which are inevitable, will deprive a large segment of Western Montana of the traditional snow cat excursions, and will result in the waste of a large quanity of good timber.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Newton

Senator MELCHER. Michael Conner will replace Rem Kohrt.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL CONNER, STOLTZE-CONNOR LUMBER CO.

Mr. Conner. Thank you, Senator. My name is Michael Conner, I'm an independent logger specializing in dead wood removal primarily, but I would like to comment on the uncertainties facing those whose livelihoods depend on the consistent and prudent management of our national forests. And present a couple of examples showing the results the delays and the implementations of viable ongoing programs cause.

Case in point No. 1, 1975, as part owner of the former Del Conner Lumber of Darby, Mont., the management and I embarked on a program of plant expansion aimed at more complete utilization of lodgepole pine stands, which were to be clearcut due to overriding silvicultural dictates. A computerized small log plant was constructed to utilize the material in these stands that was formerly dozer piled and burned. The plant had capabilities of utilizing materials to 2½ inch top diameter rather than the 6 inch the contract specified. A feasibility study was completed and it was determined that a relatively small volume of timber, approximately 3 to 4 million board foot of clearcut residual, and I emphasize the word residual, would be needed to maintain yearly employment for an additional 10 to 15 people in our economic community, as well as amortize the investment.

All of the individuals in the Forest Service from the regional level on down were very enthusiastic about the program and verified the fact that according to our competitive bidding record on

the Bitterroot and Beaverhead National Forest, we should have little trouble in contracting the needed volume.

In 1976, the National Forest Management Act came off. However, the regulations and the implementation of internal policy were far from written in concrete and as evidenced by this meeting, leaves many issues still far from resolved.

The upshot for Del Conner Lumber was this: the Beaverhead National Forest was the major supplier of LPP. They elected to take all seven planning units on the forest and collectively complete an environmental assessment on them rather than taking individual planning units and releasing them, one at a time. And due to inventory problems, computer problems, internal problems, and more problems, the program was not completed for several years, and thus no commercial sales of any consequence was sold during this period. Fell on hard times again, were forced to sell the small log mill to a firm that moved it to a location with a viable private timber source. The net loss was significant for my local individuals and agencies interested in a more complete use of this type of resource.

Case in point No. 2. During the same time period, a massive blowdown occurred on Warm Springs Creek area northeast of Jackson, Mont. Funnel cloud was observed in approximately 6 million feet of prime lodgepole pine and spruce. It was knocked down. A small portion lay within the boundary of the West Pioneers Wilderness study area. The bulk of the timber, however, was geographically and asthetically removed from the area a considerable distance. Tentative agreements were worked out with private landowners to access the timber, but due to the close proximity to the West Pioneers and an incomplete environmental assessment of the area, Forest Service elected not to go ahead and salvage the timber.

It is obvious that for all of us to enjoy the various benefits of multiple use management of our national forests, we, along with you, as elected officials, must move ahead and expedite implementations of wise land use policy or we will all be the losers.

Senator MELCHER. Stuart.

STATEMENT OF STUART W. SWENSON, GREAT NORTHERN SKI CORP.

Mr. SWENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the delegation. My name is Stuart Swenson. I reside in Libby, Mont., and live in the Kootenai National Forest. I have been a resident of Lincoln County for 36 years, have been in business in Lincoln County for 22 years.

The economy of our town, the past 12 years, has been one of boom, bust, and high unemployment. In 1981, the average unemployment was 15 percent. In 1982, the average unemployment was 21.5 percent. The prior 7 years our average was over 12 percent a year. Our county land base is owned 85 percent by the Government, so we are at the mercy of the Government and its land policies.

Our chamber of commerce's No. 1 priority is to develop tourism and recreation to supplement our timber and mining base. The cor-

nerstone of our recreational base is the proposed Great Northern Ski Area. However, one-half of the mountain lies within RARE II.

We would like to see RARE II settled. This costly process has already gone on too long. We ask that the 66,417-acre Scotchman Peak, the 20,000-acre addition to the Cabinet Wilderness and the 32,640 acres in Trout Creek be granted wilderness status and the balance of RARE II lands be released for multiple use. This plan is a reasonable and balanced allocation of lands and should not be disputed or studied any longer.

Great Northern Mountain is the economic hope for our community. It will diversify and stabilize our economy, as well as provide a tax base for our schools and local government.

The second consideration besides economics is that RARE II is constantly the focal point of disagreement and controversy. This issue has split our community and our State long enough. Politicians are constantly under fire under RARE II for either being prowilderness or procorporate robber barons. I believe our economy and Government will run smoother if we resolve the RARE II issue now.

Thank you for giving us the time to submit our views. I'm submitting a list of business people from our community that support this viewpoint. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Herb Neils.

STATEMENT OF HERB NEILS, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. NEILS. My name is Herb Neils, I have lived in the Kootenai Forest for 57 years. I'm a small businessman in Libby. Since we have such limited time, I first wish to make my position clear on the three areas that I have under consideration. I definitely favor the inclusion of the 20,000 acres of the Cabinet Wilderness. I favor making wilderness area in Trout Creek and also Scotchman Peak, Pillick Ridge.

My reasons for extending the wilderness in the Cabinet Mountains includes the fact that many drainages in this area are roaded and logged right up to the cliffs and rocks which form the backbone of the Cabinet Range, leaving no buffer zone and no habitat undisturbed for wildlife. When one leaves his car at the end of the Camp Creek, Ramsey Creek, or other roads, he has a 5-minute walk and suddenly is in the middle of what's supposed to be the wilderness. My belief is that our wilderness areas should be comprised of more than just mountain tops and, in places, the boundaries of the Cabinet Wildernesses are badly placed. This is especially and sadly true on Scenery Mountain where the lookout tower is approximately on the boundary. The mountain goat population for another reason has taken a severe beating because of all the roads in the Cabinets leading into the heart of their territory. It was a sorry day for these animals when Poorman, Cable, Ramsey, and Cherry Creek roads were completed and then not cut off after logging.

Scotchman Peak is a very rugged and scenic area. Unique in its views of Idaho to the left and Glacier Park country to the east, the very steep country lends itself to challenging hiking, camping, and

scenic views while also being good habitat for bear and bighorn sheep. Pillick Ridge should be included in these areas for the reasons mentioned before and also the road leading halfway up to Squaw Peak from the Clarks Fork River should be abandoned, which would enhance the whole area.

Finally, Trout Creek drainage is the last roadless area with a resident elk population of any noteworthy proportions in the whole Libby area. It is virtually the only place where one can be assured of hearing a bull elk bugle in the fall and answer a call. This most thrilling of nature's sounds is rapidly fading from the rest of the forest, as elk do not behave in their natural manner when they are disturbed by motorcycles, trucks, and a host of people and with no sanctuary for escape.

I have personally backpacked and horsepacked this entire region from Robin Run Creek and the West Fork to Windfall Peak and the headwaters of the East Burnt Fork, Woodchuck Mountain, and Trout Black Peak. This area has several alpine lakes, numerous springs and streams, has access to winter range, and does support a good population of whitetail and mule deer, as well as elk and some black bear. The terrain is generally very steep, has much leafy undergrowth for game feed and is large enough for general wilderness. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Neils follows:]

Herb Nails

Libby, Montana

Since we have such limited time I first wish to make my position clear on the threee areas under consideration. I definitely favor the inclusion of the 20,000 acres into the Cabinet Wilderness. I favor making a wilderness area in Trout Creek and also Scotchman Peak-Pellick Ridge.

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Herb Neils
Libby, Montana

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for game feed and is large enough for genuine wilderness. The scenery along the East Fork is outstanding and would lend itself to the introduciton of bighorn sheep at some future time. There should definitely be substantial road closures on the perimeters of this area on the Idaho side ot the West, Attlebury Creek, Tuscor Creek to the North and Whitepine Creek to the South. The one closure in main Trout Creek bottom has been a definite help and proves a point. Elk have moved back in there where they were notably absent the last few years.

In conclusion I would like to say that the notion of creating a wilderness costs two many jobs in not true. Every year our Montana non-resident hunting licenses are sold out earlier than ever before. Hunting has been a recession proof industry, if you will, and each animal taken has become much more valuable to the state and local area than even a few years ago. The going rate for elk is $3000.00 per headon any private ranch in New Mexico, Colorado, and other areas. Think of all the people employed in making backpacks, tents, camping gear, boots and clothes, specialized foods. This is an ongoing thing that takes nothing permanently from the area, does not silt up trout waters or wreck the scenery, and contributes to the mental and physical well being of our population when people can get away and enjoy unspoiled surroundings. Our increased population and renewed interest in the outdoors dictates that we preserve more and more areas like this for

generations to come instead of taking a fast buck now and disregarding the future.

In a slight digression I would add that I came from a timber family who controlled quite a vast area of Lincoln County Montana and Klickitat County, Washington. We operated the plant taht St. REgis now has in Libby, Our practices did not include clear cuts, we stayed out of creek channels, did not thin stands of thermal cover in winter range areas and built minimum roads which largely went back into tree growth as soon as we finished in an area. We generally were very sympathetic to the needs of fish and game and spent much time discussing their needs in our freequent family business meetings. I yearn for the return of this philosophy in the Kootenai where I have spent 57 wonderful years enjoying the best.

Thank You

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all very much.
James Curtis.

STATEMENT OF JAMES F. CURTIS, CHAIRMAN, MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Chairman, members of the Montana congressional delegation, I am Jim Curtis of Missoula, Mont. At present I am chairman of the Montana chapter of the Sierra Club. I am also president of the Bob Marshall Alliance. At today's hearing I am appearing on behalf of the 1,170 members of the Montana chapter of the Sierra Club.

I'm going to summarize, rather briefly, my statement because of time. We in the Sierra Club certainly support the statement that has been made by numerous others at the hearing. We believe it is time that the RARE I-RARE II controversy be settled. We think congressional action is the appropriate means for settling it. We believe that this settlement, however, can only be accomplished if the bill that is passed is a balanced bill which provides for adequate designation of wilderness, as well as for RARE release and sufficiency language.

I would like to second, also, the statement that has been made by several other people with respect to the philosophy that we believe should govern the designation of wilderness. We believe that this should be done with a view to rounding out, insofar as possible, complete equal systems, wherever that is possible.

The Montana chapter also enthusiastically supports the wilderness additions proposed in alternative W, and we would like to have that placed on the record, of our urging that each of these areas included in the alternative W be given serious consideration because of their wilderness qualities.

I would like also to mention, as several other people have, the ongoing process that is currently occurring in which the conservation community is sitting around the table with members of the timber industry to see if we can determine what areas of agreement we can reach and what areas we still need to perhaps indulge in confrontation on. We believe that this ongoing process is almost an unprecedented experiment. This has been successful, as has been mentioned by several people in the Monture-Clearwater area, and we believe it can also be successful in other areas as well. We hope that as Congress approaches the problem of working out a statewide wilderness bill, this process will be given the opportunity to function and that it will not be preempted by actions until we have a chance to see how successful we can be in trying to arrive at an agreement on areas.

Finally, I would like to read just the last couple of paragraphs of my statement. The decisions that will be made in drafting a statewide wilderness bill are extremely important and serious ones. They will affect both Montana and the Nation for many years. Wilderness is not created by passage of a bill through Congress. Neither Congress nor anyone else can create wilderness. Wilderness has been created by the processes of nature acting over many thousands of years. But decisions that are made day by day can destroy this precious heritage almost overnight. It is, in fact, being de-

stroyed almost day by day. Our remaining wilderness lands are constantly shrinking. All that Congress can do is to save some portion that still remains. I thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Curtis follows:]

July 5, 1983

Statement on behalf of the Montana Chapter, Sierra Club

Submitted to

Public Lands and Reserved Waters Subcommittee

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Concerning

Montana State-wide Wilderness Legislation

James F. Curtis, Missoula, Montana
Chair, Montana Chapter, Sierra Club

Mr. Chairman, members of the Montana Congressional delegation:

I am Jim Curtis of Missoula, Montana. At present I am Chairman of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club, I am also President of the Bob Marshall Alliance. At today's hearing I am appearing on behalf of the one thousand one hundred seventy members of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club.

At the outset we would like to express our appreciation to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water for holding this field hearing, and to all members of the Montana Congressional delegation for taking time to attend.

We in the Sierra Club believe that now is a particularly propitious time to be considering the question of additional allocations of national forest lands to the nation's wilderness preserves. The 1982 decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has established that the U. S. Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, commonly known as RARE II, is neither legally nor factually sufficient to serve as a basis for decisions concerning which remaining national forest lands should be designated as wilderness and which should be released for non-wilderness uses. RARE II was an experiment that failed. But the need for the land allocation decisions that prompted RARE II remains.

We in the Sierra Club do not believe that a satisfactory solution to this problem will be found by asking the U. S. Forest Service to undertake another inventory and evaluation of roadless wild areas. RARE III is not the answer. On the contrary, we believe that Congress must undertake the job of making these decisions on a state-by-state basis. However, if Congress is to perform this task fairly and judiciously, with fairness to all parties, certain basic principles must be observed.

1) Legislation that simply declares RARE II to be sufficient and legally beyond challenge would not constitute a fair and just solution. Such an attempt to legitimize by fiat a process that the courts have found to be both factually and legally flawed would be vigorously opposed by the entire conservation community and should be rejected by all fair minded persons.

2) Each roadless area that has outstanding wilderness quality should be considered on its own merits, and those for which allocation to wilderness will ensure the highest and best use of the land should be so designated. This will require study and careful judgment. The Sierra Club along with other members of the conservation community stand ready to assist in this process to the best of our ability. As will be indicated in greater detail later in this statement, we have already been involved in a process of study and negotation that we hope will assist the Congressional delegation in making the difficult decisions concerning which areas are deserving of wilderness designation.

3) Those RARE II areas that are not to be designated as part of the wilderness preserve at this time should be released for non-wilderness uses, but such release should not be absolute and for all time. It would be vain and presumptuous in the extreme to claim that decisions that we will make now will be so wise that they should not be subjected to review and alteration at a future time when

conditions may have changed. Hence, any release clause incorporated in a wilderness bill should be couched in the so-called "soft" release language which provide for release of areas to non-wilderness use for the duration of the present National forest planning cycle.

4) Only if the foregoing conditions are met should a wilderness bill contain language declaring that RARE II is not subject to legal challenge in Montana.

The Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses the wilderness additions proposed in "Alternative W". We believe that each of these areas has wilderness characteristics that qualify it for wilderness designation. Each should be given serious consideration in developing a state-wide wilderness bill. We also recognize that in some instances, designation as wilderness may conflict with other possible uses and that these conflicts will need to be resolved. I would like to comment briefly concerning the process for achieving such resolution.

During recent weeks representatives of the Sierra Club together with representatives of other organizations that believe in the value of, and need for, wilderness have met with representatives of the timber industry in what we believe to be an almost unprecedented experiment aimed at resolving conflicts concerning wilderness designation. We have no illusion that a meeting of minds will be possible in all cases, but we believe that, if people of goodwill meet together, exchange ideas, and attempt to understand one another's views, the need for confrontation may be minimized. At the very least, we should be able to define those areas on which there is general agreement. In some instances it may be possible to make boundary adjustments that will satisfy the needs of all parties and, thus, to work out a compromise that all can support. To date we have been dealing only with proposed wilderness areas in the Lolo National Forest, but if this effort on the Lolo proves successful, it is our belief that it should be extended to other national forests as well. Admittedly, this will require time, but we believe that the time devoted to this process at the beginning may be well repaid by a savings in time during the later stages of legislative action. As other testimony at this hearing has established this negotiation process has been successful in one instance, the Monture Creek area portion of the Bob Marshall Wilderness additions proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance.

We hope that the Montana Congressional delegation will agree that this negotiation process should be given a fair trial and will allow time for it before drawing a bill that will allocate areas to wilderness or non-wilderness.

Other testimony at this hearing will address the wilderness qualities of specific areas. At this time I want simply to restate the support of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club for Alternative W. Each of the areas listed in that document deserves serious consideration for inclusion in the nations wilderness system. We trust that the Montana delegation will give thorough consideration to the wilderness qualities of each area, as well as to their other possible values.

The decisions that will be made in drafting a state-wide wilderness bill are extremely important and serious ones. They will affect both Montana and the

nation for many years. Wilderness is not created by passage of a bill through Congress. Neither Congress nor anyone else can create wilderness. Wilderness has been created by the processes of Nature acting over many thousands, if not millions, of years. But decisions that are made day-by-day can destroy this precious heritage almost overnight. It is, in fact, being destroyed day-by-day. Our remaining wildlands are constantly shrinking. All that Congress can do is to save some portion of what still remains.

We hope that in developing a state-wide wilderness bill the Montana delegation will act with wisdom and foresight. As they face the difficult decisions that must be made, we hope that they will be fully mindful of the fact that these decisions have critical long-range importance, as well as immediate effects. These decisions will not only determine what areas are available for logging, for mining and for oil and gas exploration; they will also determine the kind of heritage we will leave to generations yet unborn. Will our grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren have the opportunity for a wilderness experience? Will they be able to know solitude and silence in Montana's beautiful mountains? Will they have the chance to see a small remnant of the America that the mountain men knew, to have a small experience of the kind of wildland from which America has developed?

Senator MELCHER. Tony Moore? Not here. Jay Vest.

STATEMENT OF JAY VEST, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. VEST. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Jay Vest. I am a resident of Missoula, Mont. I am a wilderness researcher and formally a wilderness specialist with the Federal Bureau of Land Management I have spent 11 years with that agency in the Federal service.

To open with, I would like to reemphasize a point that Bill Cunningham made earlier, that these lands are wilderness and that today we are deciding how much less wilderness—with this package we are deciding how much less wilderness we will have in the future.

With that in mind, I would like to stress a little something about the meaning of the concept and where it comes from and what it means to us as Northern Europeans in heritage, basically. The term comes from the Old Saxon-Old English term meaning will, will-doer, as in a willful animal. The point being that I have traced it back ethnologically and it means will of the land. The people of Northern Europe in this period of time that we are talking, 3,000 years ago, saw nature equipped with a willpower and a will force. Scottish scholar MacBain stated in 1917 that this will force was akin to that which impelled man. Even stationary nature, the everlasting hills and the solid earth, was endowed with feeling, will, and thought. All the mental powers that man felt controlling his actions were unconsciously transferred to nature.

This heritage is particularly strong in the Celtic peoples. We find that among these early Europeans, they had their first culture—I am hesitant to say civilization because it is a negative term in emphasizing dominance and control—but culture, they certainly had a very deep and progressive culture, where their religion was based around sacred groves located deep in the wilderness where they went to worship. Likewise, so this holds for the Gothonic or Germanic peoples. Wilderness, in this instance, is sacred land. It is a concept found in primal cultures throughout the world. I have done

quite a bit of research in what I call sacred geography and have found that we find it over and over in all kinds.

The Wilderness Act clearly recognizes this sacred condition through the characteristic solitude. Ethnologically, solitude breaks down to soul and mood. That is the sacred. As the imperial invading traditions moved northward across Europe approximately 1,000 years ago, they found people worshipping on heaths. They call these people heathens. The land was the center for religion. The point being that contemporary wilderness users are today worshipping on this land.

Now, I would like to make two quick points before concluding. Wilderness is a sense of religion to many people in this country, and under the constitutional right of freedom of religion, we are entitled to that opportunity. It is maintained for churches and cemeteries by giving them tax breaks and so on, exemptions. Likewise, those of us who wish to worship there are entitled to that, so I support alternative W. I think it is very moderate and very reasonable in the sense of being well balanced.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Jay. Next is Marlen Tweten.

STATEMENT OF MARLEN TWETEN, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. TWETEN. Gentleman, first of all, I wish to express my support for alternative W and since I cannot attend the hearings in Great Falls, I would like to make a comment on roadless areas in the Custer National Forest, but also this applies to all areas in region I.

One of the problems we are having here with mineral exploration seems to be the greatest threat to integrity of many of these roadless areas. To give an example, over 161,000 acres of the RARE II roadless area in the Little Missouri National Grasslands of western North Dakota have been impacted by energy exploration and related activities. In only 4 years we have witnessed significant alteration of 70 percent of the Nation's midgrass roadless acreage, of which only 0.0015 percent of the original resource remains as roadless units in 5,000 acres or more.

The problem here is I think we're going to have to get these areas resolved as soon as possible, because on some of these areas, private leases are still in effect. And to give an example, the Tongue River Breaks and the Lost Water Canyon in the Pryor Mountains are two areas which will probably be developed relatively rapidly if they are not chosen for wilderness. And another area that's particularly susceptible is the Eastern Front and the areas around the Swan and the Bob Marshall.

So, I wish to urge you at this time to soft release the areas that have the highest values and to take action now before we lose them to development.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Tweten follows:]

610 East Sussex Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801
July 5, 1983

Public Lands Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Please enter my comments in the official hearing record.

I wish to express my support for "Alternative W". Since I cannot attend the hearing in Great Falls, I would like to comment on roadless areas in the Custer National Forest, in particular Lost Water Canyon and Tongue River Breaks. What I have to say also applies to most other RARE II areas in Montana.

Petroleum exploration poses the greatest threat to the integrity of these and other roadless areas in Region 1. To give an example, over 161,000 acres of RARE II roadless area in the Little Missouri National Grasslands of western North Dakota have been impacted by energy exploratio and related activities. In only four years we have witnessed the significant alteration of 70% of the nation's mid grass roadless acreage, of which only .0015% of the original resource remains as roadless in units of 5000 acres or more. Hopefully, something can be done to salvage what is left, including the proposed Twin Buttes wilderness area.

Finally, I urge you to "soft release" the areas not chosen for wilderness. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marlen Tweten

Marlen Tweten

Senator BAUCUS. OK, thank you, Marlin. Is Bud Journey here?

STATEMENT OF ALFRED E. JOURNEY, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. JOURNEY. Yeah. May name is Alfred E. Journey. I'm from Libby, Mont., and this will be my last official act as a conservationist. You industry people and Forest Service people can congratulate yourself; you've burnt out another one. Not that I've really been a threat to you. For 5 years, I have faithfully done my homework. I have gone out in the field and personally observed some of your exploitative shenanigans. Then I've exercised my rights to apprise you of some of your many mistakes—only the really glaring ones, because there are too many of them to keep up with all of them.

You've always listened politely and thanked me for my "valued input" and then sent me on my way and go on about your destructive business as usual. It's all a bloody game and an empty one at that.

In the past 5 years that I have worked diligently with people from the Kootenai Forest, I haven't accomplished one single positive thing. I haven't been radical or unreasonable. I've just attempted to protect a little niche here and a little niche there. But now, after 5 years, I can't point to one single instance where I've changed anything.

Meanwhile, there have been roads built willy-nilly throughout the Kootenai by the thousands of miles. The Northern Yaak area, which is one of the last places where grizzly bears and caribou can still occasionally be found, has been devastated by roads and clearcuts. That idiotic paved road that is being built through the Yaak is just symbolic of the belligerent and heavyhanded approach the Forest Service has taken in this once beautiful and unique area.

There has also been heavy roading in virtually every place in the forest, except for the wilderness area and some of the RARE II areas. Except for Trout Creek, virtually every other sizeable roadless area left in the Kootenai is targeted for heavy roading.

If I seem to be a little cynical about the people who run the Kootenai, I've earned it. After working or trying to work closely with these people for the past 5 years, I have learned the hard way that it's an exercise in futility. I am cynical, and I am bitter.

I've seen pillage on a grand scale in that forest. It turns my stomach. In fact, that's the reason I'm getting out of the business of conservation. It's not worth the pain one goes though to know what's going to happen on that forest.

However, my friends and ex-colleagues have convinced me that this hearing is different. "We are dealing," they tell me, "with the source, the people who make the laws," people who haven't been through forestry schools, people whose thinking hasn't been jaded by the concept of crop rotations and the tree farm or carrot patch syndrome. These legislators, I'm told, "know what a multiple use forest is." I hope so, because what we have on the Kootenai National Forest right now is anything but multiple use.

At this moment, a little over 4 percent of the Kootenai is wilderness. If we add the maximum amount of potential wilderness that is available, including the Cabinet Additions, Scotchman's, Trout Creek and Ten Lakes, it will come to a grand total of about 10 or

11 percent that will be wilderness. For all intents and purposes, that will be it for roadless areas in the Kootenai National Forest. Virtually all the rest will be vulnerable to some type of manmade alterations. Check the forest plan, it's there.

Now, I know that you altruistic representatives of the industry will argue that the Nation needs the lumber and people need the jobs and that taking 10 percent of the forest out of the timber base is sure to put you out of business, and vast numbers of people will be put out of work. My response is that if you can't make it on 90 percent of the forest, you can't make it on 100 percent.

I support the Cabinet Additions, Trout Creek, Ten Lakes addition and Scotchman's, including Pillick Ridge for wilderness. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Bud. John Dilley.

STATEMENT OF JOHN DILLEY, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. DILLEY. Yes. Gentlemen, my name is John Dilley. The general perception of those Montana sportsmen who are paying attention to the future significance of proposed Forest Service management plans is that regardless of attempts to point out to the Forest service the importance of escape cover to Montana's economy, the general trend of the forest plans is to maximize RPA mandated timber cutting and thereby reduce or minimizing the available escape cover. Lack of escape or security cover either causes the critters to leave, be overharvested, or harvested to such a high rate that more permit-only hunting and shorter seasons are the only feasible fish and game department management alternatives. These probabilities, in turn, jeopardize the significant value of hunting to Montana's economy.

Roadless areas will tend to sustain this value and promote a more balanced, diversified economy, something that many knowledgeable people seem to be promoting, but oftentimes with unclear, unrealistic, or nonspecific ideas of how to do it.

Promoting security cover is a specific way to promote a more diversified Montana economy for the future. Quality recreation attracts money to Montana in sizeable quantities. That's money coming into the State; not money leaving the State, as it usually does. This incoming money will tend to promote a healthier State economy less influenced by wild national and international economic swings. I urge your careful consideration of the long-term beneficial economic values of roadless areas.

Finally, in a more general sense, I am concerned with the past and present obsession with dominating the public's land with Government subsidized commodity harvesting programs based on an RPA quota that I believe is unrealistic and shortsighted with regard to Montana's future. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much, gentlemen. We appreciate it.

OK, Gary.

STATEMENT OF GARY N. CREMER, RESOURCE MANAGER, W-I FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.

Mr. CREMER. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Gary Cremer and I'm presently resource manager of the Thompson Falls Division of W-I Forest Products, Inc. We are a privately owned company. W-I Forest Products owns and operates seven sawmills, a chip mill, and a trucking company engaged in hauling our products. W-I employs approximately 1,100 people directly in all of our operations, and another 400 contract loggers and road construction personnel. A total of 130 people are employed directly at our Thompson Falls operations, along with about 75 contract logging personnel in various aspects of our woods operations.

Our Thompson Falls operations rely heavily on U.S. Forest Service timber. Presently, 50 to 60 percent of our timber supply is generated from Forest Service sales. This Forest Service timber is purchased from the Flathead, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests of western Montana, and additionally a small part of this supply comes from areas of the Panhandle National Forest in Idaho, which are contiguous to our Montana working circle. Any actions which would lead to lowering the annual harvest on these four national forests would have a dramatic, adverse impact on our Thompson Falls facility.

Currently there are in excess of 2 million acres of existing wilderness areas within a 150-mile radius of our Thompson Falls operation. This acreage includes the Cabinet Mountains, the Scapegoat, the Bob Marshall, the Great Bear, the Mission Mountains, the Selway-Bitterroot, and the Welcome Creek Wilderness areas. Additionally, we have Glacier National Park within this working circle. Combined, these areas encompass a huge expanse of land, which more than adequately provide wilderness and recreation opportunities for the people of Montana and adjoining States.

The RARE II process identified many additional areas to be studied for possible wilderness designations. Within our working circle, numerous such areas were evaluated. The recent ninth circuit court ruling on the RARE II environmental impact statement has placed all of these evaluations in limbo. Programed timber harvests planned in those RARE II areas originally designated for release are now in a State of suspension and are jeopardizing the flow of timber very necessary to the timber products industry of Montana. We need a speedy resolution to this dilemma.

Presently, a legislative resolution seems imperative, if we are ever to proceed ahead with any kind of responsible management on our national forest lands. To be effective, such legislation must contain sufficiency language and release language.

On the Kootenai National Forest, RARE II areas numbered 1-664, 1-665, 1-671, 1-672, 1-673, 1-674, 1-675, 1-676, 1-677, and 1-678 were all recommended for release on multiple use management under the RARE II process. We continue to endorse all of these areas for release into the multiple use management category. All of these areas contain large expanses of land that support commercial timber stands, have good mineral potential, and/or have wildlife and recreation management potentials. All are adjacent to or

within close proximity of the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

On Scotchman Peak we support just the core area of 36,727 acres. We are strongly opposed to expansion of this area.

On the Lolo Forest, many areas were recommended for nonrelease—or for release. We support these designations, also. We feel that the Lolo Forest planning process has been sensitive to these areas and will manage them accordingly. We thank you for this opportunity.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cremer follows:]

STATEMENT OF

GARY N. CREMER
RESOURCE MANAGER
W-I FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

MISSOULA, MONTANA
JULY 5, 1983

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Gary Cremer and I am presently Resource Manager of the Thompson Falls Division of W-I Forest Products, Inc., a privately owned company. W-I Forest Products owns and operates seven sawmills, a chip mill, and a trucking company engaged in hauling our products. W-I employs approximately 1,100 people directly in all of its operations and another 400 contract loggers and road construction personnel. A total of 130 people are employed directly at our Thompson Falls operations, along with approximately 75 contract logging personnel in various aspects of our woods operations.

Our Thompson Falls operations rely heavily on U.S. Forest Service timber. Presently, 50 - 60% of our timber supply is generated from Forest Service sales. This Forest Service timber is purchased from the Flathead, Kootenai and Lolo National Forests of Western Montana. Additionally a small part of this supply comes from areas of the Panhandle National Forest of Idaho, which are contiguous to our Montana working circle. Any actions which would lead to lowering the annual harvest on these four National Forests, would have an adverse impact on our Thompson Falls facility.

Currently, there are in excess of 2,000,000 acres of existing wilderness areas within a 150 mile radius of our Thompson Falls operations. This acreage includes the Cabinet Mountains, the Scapegoat, the Bob Marshall, the Great Bear, the Mission Mountains, the Selway-Bitterroot and the Welcome Creek Wilderness

areas. Additionally, Glacier National Park lies within this working circle. Combined, these areas encompass a huge expanse of land which more than adequately provide wilderness and recreation opportunities for the people of Montana and adjoining states.

The RARE II process identified many additional areas to be studied for possible wilderness designations. Within our working circle, numerous such areas were evaluated. The recent 9th Circuit Court ruling on the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement has placed all of these evaluations in limbo. Programmed timber harvests planned in those RARE II areas originally designated for release, are now in a state of suspension and are jeopardizing the flow of timber very necessary to the timber products industry of Montana. We need a speedy resolution to this dilemma. Presently, a legislative resolution seems imperative if we are ever to proceed ahead with responsible management of our National Forest lands. To be effective, such legislation must contain sufficiency language to prevent further appeal and delay processes. Any legislation directed toward resolving this issue should also contain release language until at least the year 2,000.

On the Kootenai National Forest, RARE II areas numbered 1-664, 1-665, 1-671, 1-672, 1-673, 1-674, 1-675, 1-676, 1-677 and 1-678, were all recommended for release to multiple use management under the RARE II Final Environmental Statement. We continue to endorse all of these areas for release into the multiple use management category. All of these areas contain large expanses of land that support commercial timber stands, have good mineral potential, and/or have wildlife and recreation management potentials. All are adjacent to, or within close proximity of the of the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. All are vital to our multiple use land base. Areas 1-670-C and 1-681-C were recommended as additions to the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. We support this recommendation, as they are logical

and contiguous parcels to this area. Area 1-662, and commonly known as the Scotchman Peaks area, was recommended for wilderness designation. We would endorse a similar recommendation for a core area of 36,727 acres, but are strongly opposed to any fringe expansions of this area. Its close proximity to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness area, its mineral potential and its commercial timber value all preclude any need to lock up any more of this parcel into a wilderness designation.

On the Lolo National Forest, RARE II areas numbered 1-141, 1-142, 1-146, 1-152, 1-665, 1-784, 1-785, 1-790, 1-791, 1-792, 1-794, 1-795, 1-796 and L1-LAQ were all recommended for non-wilderness release. We strongly support these designations. All of these areas have currently undergone management designations under the Lolo National Forest Planning process. These areas contain management options which include commercial timber production, Grizzley Bear habitat management, dispersed recreation (both motorized and non-motorized), big game winter and summer range, watershed management and many others. These areas are being sensitively managed for a wide range of intertwining values. We feel this planning process has allowed for the protection of all valid use options. To pursue wilderness designations would be redundant and out of place.

In short, we have studied our roadless areas to a frazzle and now we are looking at studying them some more. Are we going to make them perpetual study areas or is it time to act on our findings. Only action now will provide for the continuous flow of products and values our National Forests are capable of supplying. Do not allow our land base to be suspended in inamimation during more study. Use wisdom tempered with boldness and act now. The community of Thompson Falls and all of Montana are dependant upon your leadership.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our input in this important matter.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Jamie Brebner.

STATEMENT OF JAMIE A. BREBNER, LIBBY CHAPTER OF MONTANA WOMEN IN TIMBER

Ms. BREBNER. Thank you. Gentlemen, concerned Montanans: I am Jamie Brebner, forest technician with St. Regis Corp., Libby, Mont. I enjoy and participate in many outdoor activities: Hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, fishing, and hunting, to name just a few. I also make a proud living as an employee of the timber industry. By the same token, I am also a consumer of potentially 5,000 useful products obtained from our forests. Today I'm speaking for the Libby chapter of Montana Women in Timber.

I have lived in northwestern Montana for 3 years and in that short time, I have come to realize more fully the magnitude and significance that a possible RARE III study would have on this community, as well as others.

Our chapter's concerns are twofold: The first is job security, and the second is the proper utilization of our resources to meet the increasing demands for wood products and other resources. A balance of these resources is possible if we would stop debating with one another and begin working toward this goal. If we fail to do so, this goal will never be realized.

I do not wish to elaborate on figures, although a few will be mentioned. Rather, I would like to speak from the hearts of the individuals in our chapter. We are women, some of whom have husbands directly involved in this timber industry. Others are personally involved in the woods, such as myself. Still, here are others who are affected indirectly by th RARE II stalemate, such as lumber retailers, log accountants, laborers, tree growers, and teachers.

How long will they procrastinate? What will it cost the American taxpayer to have a RARE III? It is a disgraceful misrepresentation and misuse of our tax dollars and we are fed up. Land tied up in litigation, because Congress cannot decide, merely creates more lag time for the environmentalists.

When our national debt is close to a trillion dollars or more, a surefire place to start reducing this debt is to halt this delay from managing our valuable, and, yes, vital resources. A sure fire is exactly what will happen when the mountain pine bettle continues to spread at an ever faster rate. Nonutilization of land and timber is causing many of these areas to become more vulnerable to the mountain pine bettle epidemic. Many areas under a managed condition would be more productive and less apt to be susceptible to complete devastation of the stand.

The longer the Forest Service is refrained from involvement in developing timber sales because of the uncertainty created by the ninth circuit court decision, all the dollars and manhours spent on thier development are jeopardized. As a result, there will be more waste and misuse of our resources. Not only will here be more unemployed loggers, but all timber-related jobs will be reduced. When there are people out of work, on whom does this burden fall? It falls on those who are working. Our people need to be productive. If they are not, they too are being wasted. It is not just the timber

industry that is affected by this stalemate. There is also an undue burden on oil imports into this country. It should not be this way. Mineral exploration is necessasry to help this Nation overcome a tremendous dependency on foreign oil.

How can we forego the loss of 4 million cubic feet per year due to insect, fire, disease, and storms when the expected timber demand incresases faster than the supply? It's imperative that everyone—environmentalists and developers—commit themselves to a balanced management of our limited and renewable rescurces.

I strongly recommend that our elected representatives resolve the areas subject to Senate bill 393, and that the sufficiency language bill be passed. Consideration of the RARE III is ludicrous and it should be aborted. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Dr. Henricksen.

STATEMENT OF DR. THOMAS A. HENRICKSEN, ASSISTANT EXPLORATION MANAGER, NORTHWEST DIVISION, U.S. BORAX CO.

Dr. HENRICKSEN. I don't know about the title, but thank you, Senator. Members of the committee: My name is Tom Henricksen. I am assistant expoloration manager, Northwest Division, for U.S. Borax. I am also project manager of our company's activities in western Montana, including the Cabinet Mountains,

According to recent reports by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey, the Revett Formation of Sanders and Lincoln Counties in the Kootenai Forest contains the biggest producing silver mine in the United States and also contains the highest potential for additional silver deposits in the United States. U.S. Borax holds several important properties that could be affected by new wilderness designations. That is, these properties are in the McKay Creek area and the Dry Creek area of the proposed Scotchman Peak Wilderness. Our claim groups are outlined on the maps with our written testimony. You can see them in the testimony.

During the past several years, we've conducted grassroots exploration and also done detailed drilling and drilled out several hundred million dollars worth of silver and copper ore inside the Cabinet Wilderness. The McKay Creek area is the possible southern extension of this same ore zone and it's outside the wilderness, whereas the Hayes Ridge area, immediately north of where we've drilled, is a possible extension within the Cabinet Wilderness. We're presently trying to get an operating plan approved that would allow us to drill in the Hayes Ridge area.

In my 15 years as an exploration geologist, I've personally seen no area with higher metal potential that could be underground mined as environmentally safe as the Revett formation of Sanders and Lincoln Counties. I would commend ASARCO for showing that modern underground mining can be carried out in a clean and efficient manner.

U.S. Borax, as a company, is committed to maintaining the wilderness qualities of western Montana, whether or not these areas are actually designated as wilderness. We are also dedicated to maintaining the area of wildlife, particularly the threatened species such as the grizzly bear. Because the silver deposits and these potential silver reserves can be mined underground, we believe

that all these goals can be met, provided that Congresspass the appropriate legislation.

Thank you very much for considering this matter.

[U.S. Borax position paper follows:]

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

U.S.BORAX

July 5, 1983

U.S. Borax Position Paper
on Kootenai National Forest
RARE II Hearings
Missoula, Montana 1983

U.S. Borax began exploration for silver and copper in 1971 in the Revett Formation of Western Montana and later emphasized mineral exploration in the Cabinet Mountains of Western Montana following the release in 1981 of United States Geological Bulletin 1501 describing the potential in the Cabinets for stratabound deposits of silver and copper. The Troy silver-copper deposit of ASARCO is less than 12 miles away in the same formation and is the largest silver producer in the United States. Since 1981 U.S. Borax has spent about 1 million dollars gathering geologic information, geochemical sampling, staking claims, core drilling, and meeting environmental standards, with most of these activities being helicopter supported. To date U.S. Borax has delineated by core drilling at least several hundred million dollars worth of silver-copper ore in the St. Paul Peak-Rock Peak area and outlined a tremendous potential for additional silver and copper reserves in Hayes Ridge area north of St. Paul Peak within the Cabinet Wilderness as well as the Hereford prospect (Figure 1) just south of St. Paul Peak outside the Wilderness but partially within a RARE II study area (McKay Creek). In addition, U.S. Borax has staked more than 100 claims in the Dry Creek area (Figure 2) south of Mt. Vernon and partially within a RARE II study area (Scotchman Peak addition - Pillick Ridge). The high potential in these areas has been verified by Kootenai Forest scientific personnel, the United States Geologic Survey, and most recently (Spring, 1983) by the Western Field Operations Office of the U.S. Borax Bureau of Mines in an issue paper. Data collected to date by U.S. Borax suggests that the Cabinets alone probably contain the highest silver reserves in the United States.

Thus, U.S. Borax would recommend that the Scotchman Peak addition south of Dry Creek and lower Hamilton Gulch not be included in any wilderness designation. We further would recommend that the McKay Creek addition to the Cabinet Wilderness not be included in any wilderness designation.

Although not entirely relevent to these RARE II hearings on proposed wildernesses in Montana, a short scenario of the problems that a potential few grizzlies can have within an existing wilderness area is presented here.

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The vast majority of mining claims held by U.S. Borax in the Cabinets were staked and optioned in 1981, soon after the U.S.G.S. Bulletin was published, and the remainder were staked in 1982. As per the Wilderness Act of 1964, during 1983 U.S. Borax must do enough work on its claims within the Wilderness to pass a validity examination by the U.S. Forest Service.

During 1982 and after most of our mining claims had been staked and optioned in good faith, the Kootenai National Forest implemented the Cumulative Effects process in order to limit activities that might threaten the continued existence of the grizzly bear.The Cumulative Effects Process has no factual data on grizzly bears in the Cabinets. In order to comply with the Cumulative Effects Process, we have modified our original 1983 Operating Plans for the Cabinets, which were submitted on November 29, 1982. These proposed modifications and mitigating measures include:

1. Delaying our drilling at the Hereford prospect outside the Wilderness for one (1) year, and ceasing drilling in the Rock Peak area by July 31, instead of drilling to September 30.

2. Shortening our drill season at Hayes Ridge to 60-90 days, rather than the 120 days asked for in the original plan.

3. Proposing additional road closures, including the Bear Creek road.

4. Changing flight mobilization points, height of flights, and flight corridors, - an idea which would not only benefit wildlife, but human residents of the Bull River as well. We even proposed to pay ASARCO additional costs if moving their flight corridor caused a cost increase.

5. Grouping our drills at Hayes Ridge so that only one square mile of area on the ground is affected at one time, thus maintaining potential, although not verified, east-west grizzly bear corridors.

6. Engaging a bear expert to be paid by U.S. Borax, but report daily all findings to the U.S.F.S. and/or U.S.F.W., and/or State of Montana - U.S. Borax is already helping finance a study of grizzly bears in the Cabinets through a $100,000 grant ($50,000 paid in 1983) on April 1 to the State and also through an independent consultant firm, Econ, Inc., and through Dr. Harold Picton, a professor at Montana State University; all three of these studies have already suggested that the project area in general does not constitute good grizzly bear habitat.

U.S. Borax has vast experience in remote mineral exploration over the last 10+ years. Coupled with information compiled from other similar projects, our experience suggests that helicopters, unless in direct pursuit, do not have a significant effect on the habits of grizzly bears. Aune's 1983 published study of seismic exploration in the Choteau area of Montana, although not conclusive seems to bear out this conclusion, although minor displacements of individuals can be expected. Our experience would suggest that within a heavily wooded environment such as Hayes Ridge, the only area eliminated from grizzly bear movement might be within several hundred feet of the drill site.

The intent of U.S. Borax in its exploration in the Cabinets is to proceed with our rights under the mining laws, while protecting the grizzly bear and maintaining the Wilderness quality. The area containing the most silver in the United States should not be put in jeopardy by any new proposed wilderness classifications.

Tom Henricksen

Thomas A. Henricksen,
Assistant Manager/Geologist
Northwest Exploration Division

Figure 1

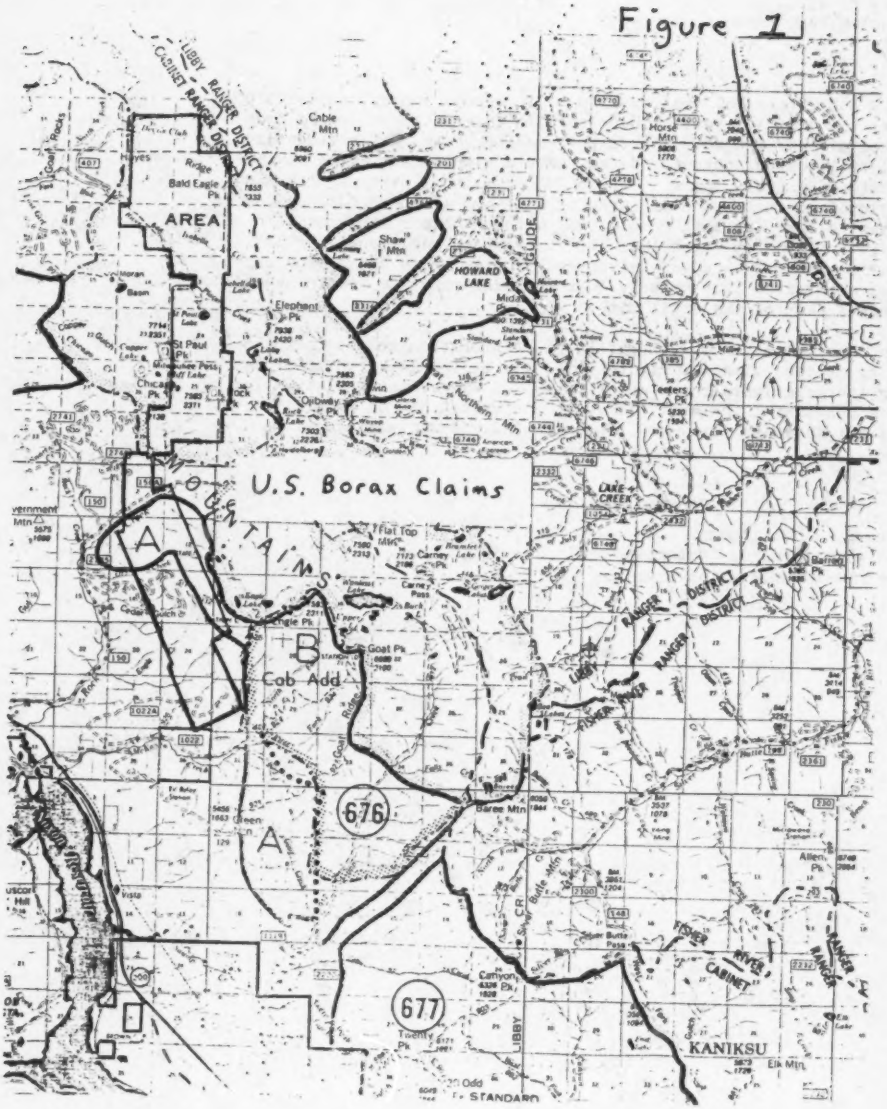
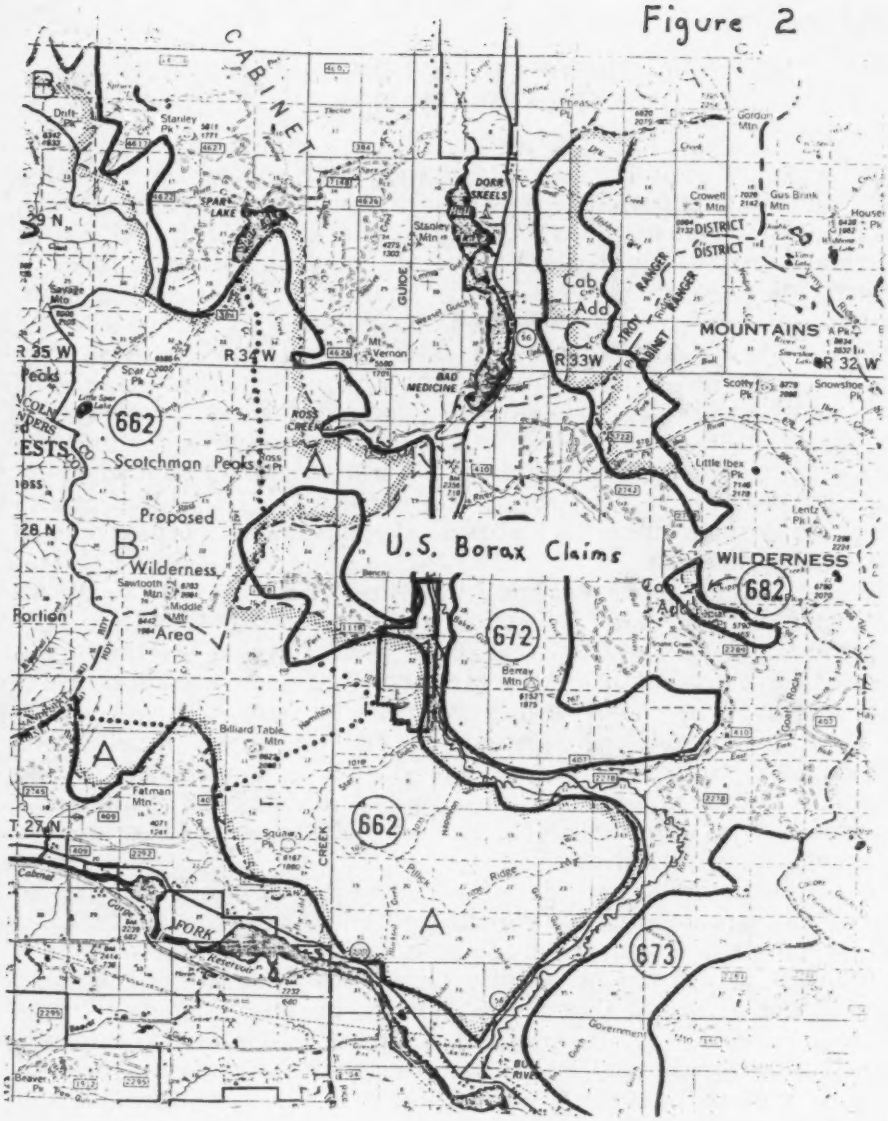

LIBBY RANGER DISTRICT
CABINET RANGER DISTRICT
AREA
U.S. Borax Claims
MOUNTAINS
A
B
Cob Add
A
Cable Mtn
Bald Eagle Pk
Shaw Mtn
HOWARD LAKE
GUIDE
Elephant Pk
St Paul Pk
Chicago Pk
Quibaby Pk
Horse Mtn
Peters Pk
LAKE CREEK
Flat Top Mtn
Carney Lake
Carney Pass
Goat Pk
Eagle Pk
Baree Mtn
676
677
Allen Pk
Canyon Pk
Tenmile Pk
Elk Mtn
KANIKSU
FISHER RIVER
CABINET
RANGER DISTRICT
LIBBY
RANGER
Vista
STANDARD

Figure 2


CABINET
Stanley Pk
SPAR LAKE
DORR SKEELS
Hall
Stanley Mtn
Crowell Mtn
Gus Brink Mtn
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
RANGER
RANGER
Cab Add
C
MOUNTAINS
R 33W
R 32 W
R 35 W
R 34 W
GUIDE
BAD MEDICINE
Mt Vernon
Scotty Pk
Snowshoe Pk
662
Scotchman Peaks
Proposed
Wilderness
Portion
Area
A
B
U.S. Borax Claims
672
Berray Mtn
Little Ibex Pk
Lentz Pk
WILDERNESS
682
Billiard Table Mtn
Fatman Mtn
662
673
FORK
CREEK
Government
Beaver Pk

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Vic Chevillon.

STATEMENT OF C. VICTOR CHEVILLON, SENIOR GEOLOGIST, NORANDA EXPLORATION, INC.

Mr. CHEVILLON. I'm Vic Chevillon. I am a senior exploration geologist with the Belt District of Noranda Exploration here in Missoula. Noranda explores primarily for gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and strategic metals as cobalt in the Eastern United States and also in Alaska, with some work in the midcontinent. Most of our activities are on Federal lands. Therefore, Federal land management decisions directly affect our business.

We view the RARE II process as a lengthy one, as everybody does. We also view it is as a part of the Federal land management scheme. We feel that, in general, the wilderness preservation system, national parks, and so on, generally disregards mineral potential. That is one of the primary criteria to make the wilderness decisions. We believe that there is presently in the United States enough wilderness areas to insure that wilderness is preserved for future generations.

We are realists, however, and know that there is going to be additional wilderness, some of which will come out of RARE II. We are primarily concerned that the legislation that you are preparing to draft does contain sufficiency language and does include hard release language; in other words, the type of language that would say, after this date, RARE II areas that have been recommended as released into the multiple use would not be considered in the future for future studies as potential candidates for wilderness. This will just be another RARE II style defacto wilderness and we don't need more of that.

For the record, I've included a couple of articles that summarize some of the logic behind our conclusion that the United States does have, at the present time, enough wilderness. I intend to include in the next 10 days a list of specific areas in Montana and northern Idaho, RARE II areas, that we would like to see changed in terms of Forest Service recommendations for your legislation. We'll have other exploration geologists at the other RARE II meetings to outline our concerns in other areas outside of northwest Montana and Idaho. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, very much. Your statements can be in the record, but your other suggested inclusion is a bit bulky for the record, but we'll put it in the committee files. Otherwise, the records will be too big. But your wilderness recommendations will go there.

Mr. CHEVILLON. OK, thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Chevillon follows:]

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Belt District
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Missoula, Montana 59801

noranda

Tel.: (406) 721-3881

Statement of

C. Victor Chevillon
Senior Geologist
Noranda Exploration, Inc.

before the
Subcommittee on Public Lands
and Reserved Water
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

July 5, 1983
Missoula, Montana

Noranda Exploration Inc., is a minerals exploration company searching for gold, silver, lead, zinc, and sratigic metals as cobalt principally in the eastern United States including Alaska. Since the Federal Government administers the majority of the lands on which we search, its status with regard to mineral entry directly effects our business. The more Federal lands that are withdrawn from mineral entry into the wilderness system, National Parks, Fish and Wildlife Refuges, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the like, the less area we have to explore. We believe the current level of Federal land withdrawals is at least sufficient to insure future generations of Americans wilderness and associated natural experiences and resources. For the record I submit copies of two reports that summarize arguments against further Federal land withdrawals from mineral entry. These articles were published in the Proceedings of the National RARE II Conference/Symposium held at the University of Montana in 1978.

We are realists and know that even more public lands will be withdrawn from multiple use and placed into the wilderness system by Congress as a result of the RARE II process. With the recent court cases in California challenging the sufficiency of the RARE II Final Environmental Statement, we urge Congress to adopt sufficiency language finding the RARE II final Environmental Statement to be adequate consideration of the suitability of roadless areas for inclusion or exclusion from the National Wilderness Preservation System. We believe that lands recommended for multiple-use management other than wilderness should be so managed without further delay.

Of the 62 million acres inventoried by the Forest Service in the RARE II study, most of the acres recommended either for wilderness or for further planning remain in an administrative limbo. It is not wilderness because Congress has not statutorily declared it to be. But neither has it been used or developed for its resources or developed recreational values. Access is sharply curtailed and opportunities for mineral exploration and development are unreasonably restricted.

"Soft" release that would allow roadless areas to again be considered for wilderness in the next planning generation (after 1985) has been included in earlier wilderness bills. Current regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act provide that lands designated by RARE II for multiple uses other than wilderness need not again be considered for wilderness during this "first generation planning cycle."

The Wyoming wilderness bill that was passed by the Senate in April, 1983, contains "hard" release or "date certain" release language. It would prohibit reconsideration of the land for wilderness in future agency planning efforts until after the year 2000.

Noranda is concerned that "soft" release language may tend to encourage a sense of freezing any development activities on roadless lands to assure that an area's eventual suitability" for inclusion in wilderness in the next planning cycle (or some planning cycle in the future) not be impaired. We believe such management practices would unreasonably delay and restrict mineral exploration and development and not be in the best interests of this country.

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STATEMENT BY

NORTHWEST MINING ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM MOTE, GEOLOGIST

The United States now imports more than half of its annual requirement of 18 critical non-fuel minerals each year according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines. We import over half of our crude petroleum requirements. Self sufficiency in energy is seen as a necessity for economic and security reasons, and recent import restrictions have made the public aware of the pitfalls of reliance on foreign sources. Foreign reliance on non-fuel minerals is equally dangerous although public perception of, say, a lack of chromium, would not be as immediately obvious as long lines at gasoline stations or a brown-out in New York. Most of these 18 imported minerals are to be found in the Western public land, many on Forest Service Lands. They must be developed.

The feeling of imcompatability between mining and other National Forest uses has been exaggerated. The RARE II draft Environmental Impact Statement states that hundreds of known and potential minerals and energy sources are contained in the roadless areas now being reviewed. The knowledge of mineral existence is a product of exploration and development over many years, the effect of which is not so extensive as to disqualify those areas from RARE II consideration.

Mining has affected less than 0.6% of the nations land. Much of that has been reclaimed by man or by nature. Laws now require reclamation, where they have not done so in the past. The appearance of land misuse by mining is almost entirely from bygone eras in which neither law nor public attitude required reclamation. While the existence of a law does not guarantee conformance by every citizen, the abundance of new laws makes it unnecessary to withdraw lands in order to protect them.

The exploration, development, production and reclamation cycle is not well understood by most Forest Service land managers. The concept of "potential" reserves is difficult to quantify when comparative values are judged in land use planning. The answer to domestic mineral supply is to maintain the public lands under multiple use management, not under non-use programs.

Exploration for minerals is a long and costly process. The time lapse between a commitment to explore, and discovery of an orebody averages well over 10 years. Major orebodies often are developed only after twenty-five or fifty years have elapsed since discovery, during which time many man-years and millions of dollars are committed. Each new activity produces a new unit of data; each assessment of data produces a new geologic concept to be verified by further exploration. At some point, the combination of hard work, major investment, and good fortune result in discovery of a

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currently economic orebody. As new geologic theories are developed, combined with new geophysical and geochemical techniques and instrumentation, old prospects become new targets, and new mines will result. An example is the progress from the many small metal mines in Arizona which have been shown to be the "indicators" of the major porphyry copper deposits tens of years and millions of dollars later.

The area required for exploration is huge. It is not uncommon for a prospector or an exploration company to search hundreds of square miles before finding a few acre prospect on which to concentrate. The "exploration" process is basically non-destructive, calling for mapping, sampling, geophysical and geochemical programs, and perhaps core drilling. Exploration programs leave no permanent scars under today's controls. If access roads or trails are required, their effect can be minimized through reasonable planning.

The "development" prospect is a concise area which requires a right to operate a viable mine if and when discovered. The area may be on the order of a square mile for comparative purposes with exploration's need for, perhaps, hundreds of square miles. Usually, unimproved road access, drilling permits, and other surface use is a necessity - all now controlled by the surface managing agency, and all reclaimable. The target is an economic orebody, usually underlying a few acres only. The operation of a mine calls for several years of use of the land

in which access, surface use for processing ores, waste disposal and other requirement must be planned and approved before operations can proceed. So, although exploration and development require access to large areas, the commitment of an area to a mining operation is extremely small, and now fully controlled by existing law.

One issue often raised is that a mining claim clouds land use decisions. It is true that timing of use is affected by the existance of a mine, but the amount of land so used is miniscule, and the land will ultimately be returned to other uses. The lack of abundance of valuable minerals, and the lack of knowledge of the location of all undiscovered resources, requires that mining have a priority in the timing of the uses planned. This timing is a necessary trade-off to the ability to supply needed minerals.

Another valid complaint has been that as many as 10 million mining claims may have been staked on public lands, and their presence creates unmanageable land use problems because the claims are often not clearly marked, may no longer be valid, or may have cabins or other surface facilities no longer used for mineral purposes. The BLM organic act will have completed the requirement for re-recording valid claims next year which will eliminate invalid claims. Surface structures are being removed from those claims on which the structures are not part of a legal mining occupancy.

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The past twenty years have produced an awareness of the environment under a new set of definitions. The result has been a new body of environmental laws, which, when imposed on existing mining laws, give government agencies the ability to properly manage public lands while maintaining the incentive for high risk, high cost mineral discovery. Sound multiple use management practices are critical to our economy and national security. Non-use of our domestic resources is not a reasonable alternative for most of our public lands. While preservation of the truly outstanding wilderness areas is wise, the issue becomes one of how much, and that answer is, perhaps, twenty or thirty million additional acres in our fifty states, to be designated as soon as possible. All other lands must be immediately returned to use. Protection of public lands can now be accomplished under existing use laws, and non-use preservation is no longer a protective necessity.

During 1977, the public made known their attitude toward use of public lands during the more than 240 RARE II workshops. In identifying criteria for judging roadless areas of Forest Service land to be studied for wilderness potential, responses overwhelmingly called for keeping public lands open for energy production, mineral production, timber production, and motorized recreational access. These can be accomplished only through multiple use management of public lands.

Senator BAUCUS. Next, Phil Crissman.

STATEMENT OF PHILLIP H. CRISSMAN, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. CRISSMAN. Senator Baucus, my name is Phillip Crissman. I am a business development and management consultant and I hold a degree in natural resource conservation from the School of Forestry, University of Montana. I worked for several years for the Department of the Interior evaluating the wilderness characteristics of BLM roadless areas. I have followed and participated in the RARE process since its beginning.

My comments concern the area of wildlands that lies 38 miles due west of this room known as the Great Burn. The Forest Service recommended 77,700 acres on the Montana side of this area as wilderness; an additional 100,000 acres has been so recommended for the Idaho side of the area.

I've hiked in, studied, and enjoyed this area since 1971. I support the Forest Service's recommendation to protect this land as wilderness. It is truly wild, beautiful, and very unique. During RARE I, the Forest Service evaluated Great Burn as having a wilderness quality index of 171, an index exceeding all candidate and designated wilderness areas within region I, with exception of the Selway-Bitterroot, which also achieved an index of 171. Great Burn is unique not because of its topography draped along the Bitterroot divide, but especially because of the present effects of the 1910 fire, leaving today a striking example of open alpin tundra, a meadow-like high country.

I'm going to bring to your attention an important change I believe should be made in the Forest Service's present recommended wilderness boundary. The area of concern is the 14,000 acres of Irish Basin/Cache Creek that were excluded at the last minute from the recommended wilderness boundary because of "proven mineral potential." I want you to know the facts surrounding this decision.

In the Draft EIS for the RARE II, the public was informed that the mineral potential for this area was "none" in all five geological/mineralization categories. Yet when the final EIS was released in January 1979, 14,000 acres of Irish Basin and Cache Creek were excluded because of, quote, "proven mineral potential."

This came as a surprise to myself and most everyone familiar with the Great Burn. I have since learned that my surprise, and a considerable amount of disagreement, was shared by members of the Lolo National Forest staff themselves.

I have also learned that, quote, "proven mineral potential" does not, in fact, mean "proven." According to the Forest Service guidelines, "proven" mineral potential means only that there is potential for mineralization. It does not indicate the presence of valuable minerals.

I went out to the Lolo National Forest office to investigate this decision. In a taped interview with the chief geologist on January 26, 1979, I learned the following information: No field studies had been conducted by the Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, or any other agency to determine the area's geology. In fact, the chief geologist admitted that, quote, "Published geologic and struc-

tural data on 1-301—that's the exclusion's designation—is lacking," unquote. And, that the Forest Service, "Doesn't really know what the area's geology is," unquote.

The overview conducted between the Draft EIS and the Final was under a tight time crunch. The entire period of time spent on Great Burn between those two drafts, between the Draft and the Final, was less than 2 hours, including typing time on a new report.

The only information utilized in this decision was from the claimholders that lived in the area, much of this gathered in private conversations.

To be short and candid, the decision to exclude Irish Basin and Cache Creek was made primarily in consultation with one or two of the claimholders in this basin. No new studies, no new data, no revealing information was brought forth during the time the public reviewed the Draft EIS and the Final was issued.

There are two mining claims in the exclusion area, but there is no significant development of either. The lack of exploration and development on these claims when some mineral showings are known to exist, only substantiates the fact that no valuable minerals are present.

We all know that Congress did not intend that areas such as this be excluded from wilderness designation on the grounds of potential mineral values.

The price we all pay, that this wildland pays, for these hobby-level mining claims is the loss of a pristine, high-wilderness quality basin that is a natural part of the whole Great Burn area.

The wilderness resource of this segment far surpasses the value of the mineral potential of this area. Not only the available geologic information, but also the marketplace supports this fact.

In my opinion, as backed up by my investigations, the rationale for the deletion of this area of Great Burn from wilderness recommendation was unjustified and unprofessional.

I urge you to examine this matter and to include Irish Basin and Cache Creek with the whole Great Burn as an outstanding addition to our national wilderness system.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much.

Next is Ken Lousen.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH LOUSEN, CHAIRMAN, MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mr. LOUSEN. Senator Baucus, I'm Ken Lousen.

Senator BAUCUS. Sorry, Ken.

Mr. LOUSEN. I'm appearing today as chairman of the Missoula City Council Conservation Committee, and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today. These comments are submitted on behalf of the city of Missoula. It is with great interest and support we are participating in this hearing to decide the future of the last wild and unroaded areas of Montana.

Missoula is keenly aware of the need for well-planned development and management of Montana's natural resources. The forest products industry ranks among the top three employers in our

community. Management of the timber base leading to a predictable yield is vital to the timber industry. The city of Missoula supports decisions leading to the release of productive areas so needed by this industry.

Missoula is also very dependent on tourism, convention trade and the recreational industries. We realize a significant income and a unique quality of life because of our surrounding wildlands and wilderness.

It is for these reasons we urge that the decisions reached by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs are careful to balance these values—one of resource production and development so important to our forest products industry, and the other of wilderness management so critical to the travel industries and our general quality of life.

The city of Missoula wishes to speak more specifically about a particular unroaded and wild area known as the Great Burn Wilderness. The Great Burn is situated only 30 miles directly west of Missoula along the Bitterroot divide. This 243,200-acre area was devastated by the great fire of 1910, thus destroying the vast majority of merchantable timber. Still, the recreational, wildlife, cultural and educational resources remain outstanding and provide an exceptional wilderness experience for the citizens of Missoula, western Montana, and the Nation.

The U.S. Forest Service has clearly recognized the Great Burn's values as an enduring wilderness by recommending 177,900 acres for legislative protection in the RARE II process. We support this recommendation with the inclusion of the Irish Basin. We also request that all of the remaining 65,300 acres be considered in the committee's deliberations.

We realize that many decisions before you will be difficult and complex. Our intent today is to convey the position of the Missoula community.

Thank you, and this is signed with warm personal regards, Mayor Bill Cregg, city of Missoula, and myself. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Ken.

John Henson.

STATEMENT OF JOHN S. HENSON, MINERAL COUNTY, MONT.

Mr. HENSON. Thank you, Congressman Williams. My name is John Henson. I reside in Mineral County, Mont. I was previously the Mineral County attorney for some 7 years. I am here representing myself today and several people from Mineral County who could not be here.

I wish to testify specifically about the proposed Great Burn Wilderness in Mineral and Missoula County.

This area has been recommended for wilderness status by the Forest Service. It received a quality or a wilderness rating that is one of the highest ratings given to any roadless area in the United States. It does not contain a high quality timber resource. It is described as noncritical for producing proven or possible mineral resources. Because of the 1910 fire, or Great Burn, it is unique when compared with other areas.

I have spent 12 years exploring this area. I have an outfitter's permit and an outfitting operation in the area. It is a special place in western Montana.

Now, some people have said today that we're talking about locking places up. We're here to permit development in all areas that have previously been undeveloped, with a few exceptions. The Great Burn should be one of these exceptions. It should include not only the area recommended by the Forest Service, but also Cache Creek-Irish Basin on the Montana portion, and Swamp Creek and lower Kelly Creek drainages on the Idaho portion. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, John.

Bernie Swift.

STATEMENT OF BERNIE A. SWIFT, HAMILTON, MONT.

Mr. SWIFT. Chairman Williams and members of the committee, I'm Bernie Swift, a retired forester, and at the present time, a legislator for the southern part of Ravalli County in the Bitterroot. This brings back some memories today and I have some real reservations about being here. Twenty-six years ago I sat in this room with four other people and set the boundaries on the Selway-Bitterroot area as we originally knew it. Since that time, I won't go back through all the changes, the definitions, and the establishment of the Wilderness Act in 1964 with its associated differences and different interpretations.

Further, the NEPA Act has been passed, the Multiple Use Planning Act has also been passed in that period, and the most important one, and the one that concerns me more today, is the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

This issue that we are addressing today is very critical and is very weighty because, as many people don't realize, the *California v. Block* adequately and appropriately stops all the planning that has been done under the National Forest Management Act to date. It, furthermore, puts everything else into jeopardy, and I don't need to relate to you in terms of the economy and the dollars and the wasted time and energy that this impact imparts to us today, and I maintain that this is one of the most critical questions that we face today in resource management.

The concern is that we have to void all those years and acts that I just related to you, still, again, after all the input and the basic criteria that was set up in RARE II with its associated public input process. And I maintain it has been totally and thoroughly discussed by all groups, the individuals and the public that were concerned and showed a concern. And now today, we're addressing the need for further legislation and I subscribe to that legislation for one reason and one reason only, and that is to get on with the job and let's do what the taxpayers are paying for and get it done. And if that measn that we have to accept the RARE II as it is, that's one alternative.

The second alternative would be the omnibus release language that I think basically would be the answer to the problem we face, and that is to come up with a release language that addresses the nonwilderness proposals, and in that respect, also, make it clear with boilerplate language that the planning that has gone before

the status of the planning if, in fact, it has followed the National Forest Management Act, the processes that are required for therein, it should be done and let's get on with the job now and save some time, energy, and going back and reinventing the wheel again. And I certainly implore the committee not to go back through again that process of selection for areas as I've heard here today. And thank you very much for the opportunity.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Swift follows:]

Bernie A. Swift
SE 206 Rose Lane
Hamilton, Mt. 59840

July 5, 1983

The Honorable Chairman John Melcher
Wilderness Suitability Omnibus Bill Hearing
Missoula, Mt. 59801

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hesitate to take time of the committee to recite all the areas considered, the time and millions of dollars expended in Forest Planning procedures, periodic changes in the Forest Management Planning requirements by Congress over the past 20 years, more specifically the National Forest Management Act of October 1976, The Wilderness Act and subsequent interpretations and definitions of what a Wilderness should or should not consist of and lastly the futile, costly attempts of the Forest Service to finally lay to rest the question of allocating and designating their agency lands to Wilderness or for further study to determine suitability of lands for wilderness designation (RARE II). The objective of course, was to free lands unsuitable for wilderness to be considered for multiple use management and get on with programs that would provide the people of the Western States and the Nation with resources of all kinds available from these lands. It should also be noted that the Department of Interior, primarily the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been and is currently involved in inventorying their agency lands to determine wilderness suitability comparable to that of the Forest Service.

The RARE II Final Environmental Statement recommended that the 2,919 roadless areas encompassing some 62 million acres in National Forests and National Grasslands, in 38 states and Puerto Rico be designated or allocated as follows:

15.0 million acres - 624 areas for Wilderness classification
36.2 million acres - 1981 areas for nonwilderness
10.8 million acres - 314 areas for further planning

As you know, the RARE II Summary Final Environmental Statement 78-04, Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, report by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service FS-324, was published in January 1979 and is now before Congress for final action. The RARE process, started in the early nineteen seventies by the Forest Service, was so strongly contested by various recreational and forest user groups that a second inventory of roadless areas (referred to above) became necessary in 1977 and was completed in 1979. The process was again placed in jeapordy by various user groups upon completion and continues to be controversial. The controversy resulted in the process being invalidated under NEPA as applied to 47 areas in California in the California vs. Block decision, RARE II Lawsuit. Basically, the lawsuit voids all the work done by the Forest Service in efforts to finalyze the allocation of agency lands for wilderness, further study for wilderness suitability or non wilderness designation. In effect, this action not only again stalls and delays culmination of the roadless area-wilderness allocation, but for all intents and purposes precludes completion of Forest Planning under the National Forest Management Act.

It is imparative that an early decision of releasing land not earmarked for wilderness or further study be made by Congress to avoid having to repeat the wasteful, costly and time consuming process of wilderness suitability inventory.

It should be evident, after almost 13 years of study, review and restudy, that an inventory process will never satisfy all forest users, user groups or the public at large. It is past time for Congress to pass some form of omnibus release legislation that will provide for Federal Agencies to get on with the job of professional resource management that the taxpayers are paying for. We can ill afford to continue wasting time, dollars and energy that could be better utilized in moving sound management programs forward. I strongly recommend that either the RARE II Environmental Statement FS-324, be accepted through legislation or specifically release the areas recommended for non wilderness in the Nation and Forests of Region One of the U.S. Forest Service, with the stipulation that the other categories of roadless areas (wilderness and further study) be maintained and managed as wilderness until such time as Forest Planning, as called for under the National Forest Management Act for respective National Forest units, is completed. This would assure wilderness protection for all areas reasonably suited for wilderness designation until such time as an in depth evaluation and analysis is completed.

The latter part of the above recommendation would also require that completed Forest Planning or planning progress (level or status) should be recognized and continue in accordance with established planning procedures. In other words, legislation should provide for acceptance of Forest Plans at current status levels, upon date of legislative enactment. This would avoid having to repeat and duplicate work already done and still assure total and complete public review. For example, the Blue Joint and Sapphire areas in the Bitterroot Forest, the areas considered in RARE II with their present status as indicated in the currently published plan for the Flathead National Forest (now in public review) and the recently revised and completed Lolo National Forest Plan should remain as they are. Other Forest units status of planning would be recognized in the same manner. By so doing, it should be unnecessary to repeat the RARE process, nor to select and/or consider additional areas for wilderness consideration as this would be done as a part of the on-going planning process.

The attached Enclosure I displays in tabular form the Federally owned lands in eleven Western States that contain the majority of roadless area acreage considered in the RARE II study of 1979. The combined acreage of National Forest and Public Domain lands amounts to some 314,357,889 million acres, which include 18,593,901 million acres of classified wilderness and 43,468,483 million acres of roadless area that was evaluated in the RARE II analysis. Not only is the RARE II Lawsuit-California vs. Block, tying up management activities on more than 27 million acres of Federal land in these States, but it impairs and delays all Forest Planning and advanced project work that was predicated on acceptance of the RARE II study. Hence the need for some immediate release legislation to avoid the continued costly delays. To continue this wasteful, costly, non-productive process of restudy would be criminal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I implore you to move as rapidly as possible towards unlocking of these millions of acres of Federal lands, so that management planning can be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Bernie A. Swift

Bernie A. Swift, Forester (Ret.)
Representative District 91, Montana

Enclosure

Enclosure 1 - Representative Bernie H. Swift
RARE II - Wilderness Hearing
Missoula, Mt. 7/5/83

STATE	NF ACRES	PUBLIC DOMAIN (BLM) ACRES	TOTAL NF-PUBLIC DOMAIN	% OF STATE	WILDERNESS	RARE II W 1/	RARE II NW 2/	FP 3/
ARIZONA 114 (73 M Acres)	11,271,890	12,566,813	23,838,703	33	556,794	400,312	1,008,892	545,828
CALIFORNIA 159 (102)	20,413,044	16,337,155	36,750,199	36	2,138,608	899,231	2,493,450	2,629,878
COLORADO 104 (67)	14,431,240	8,165,547	22,596,787	34	2,561,128	1,946,395	4,369,169	177,600
IDAHO 84 (54)	20,427,445	11,941,777	32,369,222	59	3,825,016	2,157,731	4,311,565	1,216,203
MONTANA 147 (94)	16,764,352	8,151,130	24,915,482	27	3,107,381	599,869	3,264,995	1,185,846
NEVADA 111 (71)	5,149,764	48,747,165	53,896,929	76	64,667	484,175	1,183,504	392,926
NEW MEXICO 122 (78)	9,347,688	12,770,508	22,118,196	28	1,402,168	497,265	1,153,349	256,850
OREGON 97 (62)	15,617,226	15,720,507	31,337,733	50	1,214,208	368,120	2,208,444	399,901
UTAH 85 (54)	8,045,959	22,074,795	30,120,754	56	30,088	492,088	2,371,887	138,410
WASHINGTON 68 (43)	9,053,736	310,987	9.364.723	21	1.301,171	268,887	2,032,169	219,012
WYOMING 98 (63)	9,254,365	17,794,796	27,049,161	43	2,192,672	627,137	2,828,555	338,790
Totals	139,776,709	174,581,180	314,357,887		18,593,901	(8,141,210	27,225,979	7,501,244
RAVALLI COUNTY	1,110,000	-	1,110,000	72	285,312	50,000	233,900	104,000

4/ 43,348,483

1/ Administration recommended wilderness designation.

2/ Administration recommended non-wilderness.

3/ Administration recommended further planning.

4/ Total RARE II Acreage in Eleven Western States Above Surveyed (1,283)
(The NW acres are tied up because of the Ninth Circuit Court Decision).

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you. Glenn Mueller.

STATEMENT OF GLENN H. MUELLER, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. MUELLER. Gentleman: I am Glenn Mueller, State Representative, District 21, Libby, and I am also a member of the Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force. As a former Forest Service employee, I worked closely with RARE I and RARE II and spent 16 years on the Kootenai Forest. RARE I and RARE II studies were to designate land for wilderness consideration, and the balance was to be released for multiple use management. As we know, this hasn't occurred. Instead, over the last 14 years in the United States, we've had about 62 million acres in a state of uncertainty, and today we have the testimony that's been given by a number of people as to the problems that are created by that situation.

I sincerely believe that the time has come to solve the problem. To me, the only practical solution is sufficiency legislation for Montana, designating areas to be added to the wilderness system. On the Kootenai Forest, I agree with the Forest Service recommendations to add the Cabinet Face West. Cabinet Face East (West), Chippewa Creek and the Scotchman Peak area. In Scotchman Peak, I would hope that we could work out some minor changes in those boundaries to leave out some of those highly mineralized situations.

The balance of the roadless areas on the Kootenai Forest should be released for multiple use management and, of course, throughout the State of Montana, putting those areas in that are felt should go into wilderness.

The only other situation to this situation is for the Forest Service to spend in the United States, according to what Chief Peterson told us when we were back on the Task Force in early May, $25 to $30 million over the next 1½ to 2 years to reevaluate all roadless areas through the forest planning process. At the end of this effort, we actually will be no closer to the solution than we are right now and I want to emphasize that.

The bottom line is ultimately that Congress must make the decision. As the Forestry Task Force discussed with you gentlemen in early May, there is more data on roadless areas right now than can be adequately digested. Do we make a political decision now or do we delay the decision until after the expenditure of $25 to $30 million in another 1½ to 2 years? I urge the former.

I want to thank you for holding these hearings and for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you.

[Discussion held off the record.]

Mr. WILLIAMS. Are you sitting on this panel, Phil?

Mr. TAWNEY. If I could.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Come up and take a microphone.

STATEMENT OF PHIL TAWNEY, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. TAWNEY. I am Phil Tawney and I am here on behalf of myself, a resident of Missoula, and I thank you for the opportunity

to speak with this panel. I missed the one that I was designated to speak on.

I would like to make a couple of general comments. A week ago Sunday, I noticed in the Great Falls Tribune, which I thought was a very interesting article, a report on what Peter Hart told to the Western Governors' Conference in Kalispell. Peter Hart explained to the Western Governors that people in the West want balance in the relationship to economic development. They want the environment that we have in the West, but they also want economic development. And Hart explained to the governors that he felt that was the reason that there were the kind of attitudes that there were represented in the West.

When I speak of balance, I think that is what we are here about today, and that is what Congress is trying to do is to develop a balanced approach to the remaining wildlands in the remaining country and particularly in Montana.

When I speak of balance, I would like to talk about two areas which are most important to me. First of all, the Great Burn study area, which as the Forest Service has recommended, I want to recommend that this committee consider the entire Forest Service proposal. In addition, I would like to have the Cache Creek area included—the 14,000 acre addition that was talked about previously in this panel.

I have hunted and fished in that particular area, the Great Burn area, for 15 years, and particularly the elk hunting is important to me. I think that we do not have the kind of quality elk hunting that we did have in western Montana because of the need for cover and protection, and this is one area that can be designated as wilderness in western Montana and not substantially impact the commodity values.

The other area that I would like to talk about briefly, and I know that this is not the range of this hearing, but it will come up, and this is the Big Hole River area. I would like to speak to that because I am not intending to go there. I have fished the Big Hole River extensively for the last 5 or 6 years. In my estimation, there is no fishery more valuable in Montana than the Big Hole River. I fished that river 3 weeks ago during the salmon fly hatch and I wish that I could take each Congressman up there during the fish hatch and have them view the kind of attraction that that has for people all over the West. Literally every license plate in this western part of the country was there during that period of time. There is no finer fishery, and people come from all over the world to fish that river. The watershed of that river is highly important to maintaining that quality and I would recommend that the Congress, and particularly you as Congressmen from this western district, take a careful look at the Big Hole watershed and the areas that need to be clarified.

Thank you for this opportunity. Again, I thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you all.

Next panel. Let's have the remaining three people on the next panel—Conrad Ervin, Leland Moore, and Leif Erickson—come with us, too. Let's proceed with starting on my left. Sir, if you will begin.

STATEMENT OF GREG MORLEY, SWAN LAKE, MONT.

Mr. MORLEY. Thank you. My name is Greg Morley and I manufacture the country's finest cedar canoes in the town of Swan Lake. I represent myself and 75 percent of the residents of Swan Lake. In general, I support Alternative W submitted by the Montana Wilderness Association. I specifically urge you to consider wilderness designation for the Swan Front from the Swan Lake south along the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Other residents of Swan Lake asked me to represent their interest, too, in wilderness protection for the mountains behind our town.

The wilderness character of the Swan Mountain Range is important to me. My family and I enter the alpine country behind our home four to six times a year, sometimes for a day, other times longer, to enjoy the pristine, wild environment. It means enough to us that we chose to live permanently in Swan Lake and forego greater financial opportunities elsewhere.

Three trails access the Swan high country from our community. They lead to numerous beautiful alpine Lakes and to the Alpine Trail, an old established trail along the crest where it enters the Bob Marshall Wilderness area to the south.

Most of Swan Lake's residents who have been able to, use the roadless alpine area for its wilderness values. I think every teenage person in town has been to the top of Hall Peak or Six Mile Peak. Hall Lake, Bond, and Trinkus Lakes are popular day and overnight destinations for many community residents.

Wilderness values of the Swan Range are important to the businesses being held here. The Stonewood Ranch offers valuable back trips. The Deerlick and Elkhorne resorts cater to people who often make excursions into the back country. Even the two stores and cafe-motel benefit from people who are attracted by wilderness opportunities here.

Many visitors to our area use the mountains for horseback trail riding, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping in a wilderness setting. A most valuable asset of this country is its ease of entry for quality 1-day trips.

Wilderness protection of the highly visible Swan Mountain Range would insure that one of Montana's most scenic forested mountain valleys would continue to be so outstanding. This superb scenery is available for everyone's enjoyment.

The entire Swan Mountain Range meets all criteria for wilderness designation. It is roadless, outstandingly scenic, important recreationally, and extensive. Mineral values are low, sustained timber production is not economically feasible, and there is no need to access the area with roads.

The Swan crest is firmly established as an important wilderness area by 80 years of use. Every year people have traveled the trails of this country to seek a wilderness experience. To terminate this use and open the area to extractive resource development of timber, minerals and energy would be a terrible act of greed. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Morley follows:]

Senator John Melcher, chairman
Wilderness Hearing
Public Lands Subcommittee of the U. S. Senate Energy and
Natural Resources Committee 1/3

My name is Greg Morley, and I manufacture the countrys' finest cedar canoes in the town of Swan Lake. In general I support Alternative W submitted by the Montana Wilderness Association. I specifically urge you to consider wilderness designation for the Swan Front from Swan Lake south along the Bob Marshall. Other residents of Swan Lake asked me to represent their interest too in wilderness protection for the mountains behind our town.

The wilderness character of the Swan Mountain Range is important to me. My family and I enter the alpine country behind our home 4 to 6 times a year, sometimes for a day, othertimes longer to enjoy the pristine wild environment. It means enough to us that we chose to live permanently in Swan Lake and forgo greater financial opportunities elsewhere.

Three trails access the Swan high country from our community. They lead to numerous beautiful alpine lakes and to the Alpine trail, an old established trail along the crest where it enters the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area to the south.

Most of Swan Lakes' residents who are physically able use the roadless alpine area for its wilderness values. I think every teenage person in town has been to the top of Hall Peak or Six Mile Peak. Hall Lake, Bond and Trinkus Lakes are popular day and overnite destinations for many community residents.

Wilderness values of the Swan Range are important to the businesses in town. The Stonewood Ranch offers guided horseback trips and fall hunting trips into these mountains. The Deerlick and Elkhorne resorts cater to people who often make excursions into the back-country. Even the 2 stores and cafe - motel benefit from people attracted by wilderness opportunities here.

Many visitors to our area use the mountains for horseback trail riding, hiking, fishing, hunting and camping in a wilderness setting. A most valuable asset of this wild back-country is its ease of entry for quality 1 day trips.

Wilderness protection of the Swan Crest is important for maintenance of critical wildlife habitat. As much of lower Bond Creek should be included as possible. This is key spring range for many species of wildlife, and a major mineral lick serves elk, deer, and mountain goats throughout spring and summer. The North Fork of Bunker Creek and Bruce Ridge is a major travel corridor for goats, grizzlies, and elk. In a report published through the U. M. Forestry School, Russell Chadwick documented that grizzly sign and sightings were more dense in the upper basins of String, Razzle, Late, and Alcove creeks than anywhere else in a study area that went from Lion Creek up to Hall Creek. He also noted the presence of many grizzlies in the Bunker and Bruce Ridge areas. This is high, north-facing habitat, ideal for winter denning. His records go on to show elk and goats make substantial summer and fall use of these areas.

Wilderness designation of this part of the Swan Range would relieve increasing recreation pressure on the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Don Schwennessen documented the increasing overuse problems of the Bob Marshall in a Nov. 7, 1982 Missoulian feature article.

Wilderness protection of the highly visible Swan Mountain Range would insure that one of Montana's most scenic forested mountain valleys will continue to be so outstanding. This supurb scenery is available for everyones enjoyment.

The entire Swan Mountain Range meets all criteria for wilderness designation. It is roadless, outstandingly scenic, important recreationally, and extensive. Mineral values are low, sustained timber production is not economically feasable, and there are no needs to access the area with roads.

The Swan Crest is firmly established as an important wilderness resource by 80 years of use. Every year people have travelled the trails of this country to seek a wilderness experiance. To terminate this use and open the area to extractive resource development of timber, minerals and energy would be a terrible act of greed.

Greg Morley
July 4, 1983

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF LEIF ERICKSON, BIG FORK, MONT.

Mr. ERICKSON. Congressman. What Greg Morley has said would apply to what I have said or prepared to talk in length about, but I came to Swan in 1938 and from then on, we made that our summer home and now we live there permanently. I've also ridden in the Bob Marshall Wilderness at least 27 times. I've been on every trail. I don't think there is anyone but a forest ranger that's been in there—that's been in more parts in the Bob Marshall, both this side and over across the divide, than I have. And a large part of the reason we settled at Swan Lake was the existence of Hall Peak and what we call a circle ring right beside it and Six Mile Bond and on up to the Swan Peak.

I've fished in practically every lake up there and some of them hardly have the right to that application, but I surely tried them. The one thing that I could say, while I'm backing up Greg, I've seen so many people come and go from the Swan Lake area. A lot of oldtimers, of course, are still here, but when we came to Swan in 1938, and from then on for many years, the fishing was not to be excelled anywhere. I've fished at the mouth of the Swan River with three droppers on my line and had three fish on at the same time.

But now, that's all changed and I can only account for it by the clearcuts all up and down the Swan Valley and the amount of silt that's been deposited in the mouth is very noticeable and, of course, the spawning of the cutthroats is way down. But I join all of those who have spoken in favor of Alternative W and that this job be finished. And I know how much interest you've taken, Congressman, and you know more about it probably than any of the rest of us here. You've had a very good education. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you very much. For the record, will you again state your name and address so our stenographer can get it?

Mr. ERICKSON. Leif Erickson, Swan Route, Bigfork, Mont. 59911.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MARK T. WATKINS, CHAIRMAN, WILDERNESS COMMITTEE, BITTERROOT-MISSION GROUP, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. WATKINS. My name is Mark Watkins. I represent the Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club as chairman of the Wilderness Committee. Now, there are many strong reasons for saving wilderness and some of them have been discussed already today. I would like to just talk about one justification for wilderness preservation and that is that wilderness preservation is concomitant with species preservation.

In 1980, the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality discovered that by the year 2000, approximately 20 percent of the organisms that now exist on the Earth will be gone forever. So, why should we worry about that? I would like to think that we all believe in the rights of all other species inhabiting this Earth. Every organism has its own right to exist, whether it benefits us or not. But we don't all believe that. It's a matter of ethics, which is apparently an irresolvable issue. So let's be anthropomorphic. Why should we be concerned with the status of nonhuman species on Earth?

What are the direct benefits of this species to us? The benefits are pervasive. They affect us every day.

Quickly, human nutrition. About 20 species of plants account for 90 percent of the world's diet. Only 20 species of plants. We all know that human crops are grown in monocultures, which I think we all know—I hope we all know by now—are susceptible to pests and disease.

Now, the way that we get around that is acricultural geneticists use wild plants as progenitors and come up with something new that's going to be resistant to whatever the problem is. And there are many other examples as far as nutrition goes.

In medicine, there's a nearly extinct desert pupfish which lives in the Southwestern United States. It's used for kidney research because it can tolerate extremely high temperatures and salinity. Horseshoe crab blood is used to diagnose spinal meningitis in children. Rosy periwinkle provides a drug which increases a child's chance of beating leukemia by 80 percent. These are all wild things. They are not cultivated.

Fifty percent of the medicines now on the market originated from a wild plant or animal source. If you want a dollar amount—I can't believe this—in 1982, $20 billion was the figure for drugs originating from wild plants.

Now, environmentalists are often accused of locking up resources through wilderness designation, but there's no more efficient way of locking up a potential resource than extinction. Extinction is forever. There's a lot of endangered species in Montana. We know about them. The grizzly, the timber wolf, the woodland caribou. There are plants: The limestone columbine in the Swans, and the cliff toothwort of the Mission Mountains. Those haven't been looked at, haven't been screened to see what their possible uses are for us. That's a very strong reason for wilderness preservation and I am urging that we go with alternative W. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Watkins follows:]

Testimony of Mark T. Watkins
Chairman, Wilderness Committee
Bitterroot-Mission Group, Sierra Club

There are many strong reasons for saving wilderness. Some of them have been discussed today.

I'd like to talk about just one justification for wilderness preservation. That is: wilderness preservation is concomitant with species preservation.

I'd like to think that we all believe in the rights of all other species inhabiting this Earth. Every organism has its own right to exist, whether it benefits us or not. But we don't all believe that; it's a matter of ethics, an irresolvable issue. So, let's be anthropomorphic. Why should we be concerned with the status of non-human species on Earth--what are the direct benefits of those species to us?

The benefits we receive from wild creatures are amazingly pervasive. Our lives are affected by them in ways both mundane and profound. Following are some examples.

I) Human Nutrition

Currently, only twenty species of cultivated plants account for 90% of the world's diet. These food crops are generally grown in monocultures, which are extremely susceptible to pests and disease. Agricultural geneticists are able to combat crop-threatening pathogens by hybridization of domestic plants with wild progenitors to produce a more resistant crop. New sources of genetic stock are therefore

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of paramount importance if we are to feed the world's exploding human populations.

II) Medicine

1. A nearly extinct desert pupfish is used in human kidney research because it can tolerate extremely high temperatures and salinity.

2. Horseshoe crab blood is used to diagnose spinal meningitis in children.

3. The rosy periwinkle provided a drug which increases a child's chances of beating leukemia by 80%.

4. 50% of medicines now on the market originated in a plant or animal source.

5. The monetary value of plant-derived drugs in 1982 was around $20 billion. Animal and fungal-derived drugs, when combined, produced a similar dollar amount.

III) Industry

1. Wild plants are used in the manufacture of shampoo, sunscreen, paint, golf balls, oil drilling equipment, and jet engines, to name just a few products.

2. Study of woodpecker vertebrae has led to improved design for anti-whiplash equipment in cars.

3. Similarly, study of hummingbirds has provided engineering information contributing to improved helicopter designs.

The point of all these examples is that it is of vital importance to human welfare that the world's genetic resources be preserved and maintained. Wild organisms

contribute directly to our comfort, safety, and survival. Unfortunately, not nearly enough screening has been done, and we have no way of knowing what species may benefit us. Preservation of Earth's "genetic library" is an investment in the future of humankind.

Please note that I have discussed only the direct benefits humans receive from wild organisms. The indirect benefits--involving the global life-support system--are much more complex, but ultimately even more important to human survival. I'm referring here to processes of ecosystem maintenance vital to all life on earth--processes such as photosynthesis, nutrient recycling, climate control and soil generation and maintenance.

How does the preservation of genetic resources apply to the issue of Montana's RARE II lands? The connection is that species can not be maintained without adequate habitat. Most biologists, be they employees of the Sierra Club, ASARCO, or the Forest Service, would agree that the overwhelming cause of extinctions today is habitat destruction. Habitats must be preserved, ecosystem integrity maintained, to preserve species.

Given what I have outlined above concerning the benefits humankind receives from wild organisms, we would be insane to let any species slip away.

Environmentalists are often accused of "locking up" resources through wilderness designation. But there is no more efficient way to lock up a potential resource than

through extinction. Extinction is forever. The loss of planetary genetic variability is one of our gravest environmental threats. Wilderness designation can prevent extinction by preserving healthy ecosystems.

Montana has numerous endangered species. Some, like the grizzly bear, timber wolf, and bald eagle, are widely known to the public. Others are known only to a small group of scientists. Examples here are the woodland caribou of Northwest Montana, the Limestone Columbine of the high Swan Mountain crest, and the Cliff Toothwort of the Mission Mountains. We don't know what any of these endangered creatures can provide for the direct benefit of humans, but we would be foolish to eliminate them from the planetary gene pool.

I, therefore, urge the Montana legislative delegation to support, at minimum, Alternative W, the environmental community's wilderness proposal. The amount of wilderness designation recommended in Alternative W is the least amount acceptable for species preservation. The new wilderness designations will preserve outlying populations of organisms, while the add-ons to the Bob Marshall, Selway-Bitterroot, etc., will maintain integral ecosystems in those areas.

Release language is acceptable in a statewide wilderness bill only if the minimal wilderness recommendations of Alternative W are accepted. However, soft release

language must be adopted. Soft release language is the only real compromise. Potential worsening of the status of endangered species makes periodic review of non-wilderness lands critical.

Similarly, RARE II suffiency language is acceptable in a Montana wilderness bill only if the recommendations of Alternative W are accepted.

REFERENCES

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Building an Ark. Hoose, Phillip M., Island Press, 1981.

The Sinking Ark. Myers, Norman., Pergamon Press, 1979.

A Wealth of Wild Species. Myers, Norman., Westview Press, 1983.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you. Bill.

STATEMENT OF BILL BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT, BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE

Mr. BROWN. Congressman, thank you for the chance to testify today. My name is Bill Brown. I am a frequent recreational user of the Bob Marshall. I am a member of Back Country Horsemen of Missoula and I have been a packer and guide in the southern edge of the Bob Marshall and the 30 member organizations in Montana and elsewhere, and more than 4,000 individuals who share concerns with the Bob Marshall. Member groups include organizations as sportsmen, recreational users, conservation organizations, as well as professional trappers, outfitters and guides.

For more than a year the alliance has been working to prepare a responsible recommendation for additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. I chaired a subcommittee for the alliance that prepared a recommendation for the southern edge.

As a result of RARE II, there were two areas represented for wilderness addition: The Grizzly Basin, and the larger Monture Creek area. The Bob Marshall alliance endorses the Grizzly Basin addition as it was recommended by the Forest Service and we recommended the Monture addition that will be described in the alliance's complete proposal for additions to the Bob Marshall Complex.

Monture is what I want to address today. It's been regarded in long use as wilderness by western Montana's hunters, fishermen, hikers, campers and horsemen. There's between 6 and 10 outfitters and dude ranches that depend on a pristine Monture for the health of their businesses and their continued livelihood. And the land has impressive wilderness qualities in its own right. It continues grizzly bear habitat and real important big game migration roots.

Monture also contains some commercial timber, particularly in lower elevation and peripheral areas, and the needs of the local timber industry for trees virtually guaranteed in advance that no one was going to be satisfied with the RARE II recommendations, and I don't think that anyone was.

When we in the Bob Marshall Alliance set out to develop a BMA proposal for Monture, we were aware of the polarization there and we decided to confront it from the outset. I contacted both Champion International and Pyramid Lumber Co. as the two indusry representatives most directly affected by management of this area, and they agreed to a series of meetings with myself and other members of BMA, including outfitters and representatives of recreational user groups. It was a good set of meetings. They were open, conducted in good faith, and as a result, the Bob Marshall Alliance, Champion International and Pyramid have reached agreement on a boundary recommendation to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. That agreement was further refined in conversations with Orville Daniels, supervisor of the Lolo Forest, to eliminate, to any extent possible, any conflict with the Lolo plan.

I want to emphasize that the agreement represents concessions from both sides, but it does provide for more harvestable timber then either the Forest Service's RARE II recommendation or the

timber industry's own recommendation when the effects of the Lolo plan on the timber harvest are considered. At the same time, it creates a larger wilderness and it alleviates most of the concerns of both the outfitting industry and the public wilderness users.

The only remaining point I want to make since the time is short is that this recommendation will probably come as close to a consensus as is going to be possible on this very controversial area. I think both the BMA and its member groups and the local timber interests are very eager to see a resolution of the wilderness issue in the Monture area, and I think this agreement on the part of the Bob Marshall Alliance, Champion International and Pyramid Lumber represents an unparalleled opportunity and it's one that I hope Congress will see fit to see.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Brown follows:]

TESTIMONY BY BILL BROWN OF THE BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE
SUBMITTED AT CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARINGS ON RARE II
MISSOULA, MONTANA
JULY 7, 1983

MY NAME IS BILL BROWN. I AM A FREQUENT RECREATIONAL USER OF THE BOB MARSHALL. I AM A MEMBER OF BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOULA, ANDI HAVE BEEN A PACKER AND A GUIDE IN THE BOB MARSHALL AND SCAPEGOAT ANDTHE COUNTRY ALONG THEIR SOUTHERN BORDERS. TODAY I SPEAK AS A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE. THE ALLIANCE REPRESENTS THE COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF 31 MEMBER GROUPS AS WELL AS MORE THAN 4,000 INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE A CONCERN FOR THE BOB MARSHALL COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS, THE GREAT BEAR AND SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESSES AND THE SURROUNDING DE FACTO WILDERNESS THAT IS PART OF THE BOB MARSHALL ECOSYTEM AND HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED BY THE PUBLIC AS PART OF THE BOB. MEMBER GROUPS INCLUDE ORGANIZATIONS OF SPORTSMEN, RECREATIONAL USERS, CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL TRAPPERS, OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES.

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN WORKING TO PREPARE A RESPONSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONS TO THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX. THREE SUBCOMMITTEES -- ONE EACH FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT, THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE BOB MARSHALL AND THE SWAN FACE -- HAVE STUDIED THE ADJACENT ROADLESS LANDS IN DETAIL AND HAVE DEVELOPED PROPOSALS FOR WILDERNESS ADDITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REFINED AND APPROVED BY THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE. THE COMPLETE BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THIS COMMITTEE IN THE COURSE OF THESE FIELD HEARINGS. I WANT TO MAKE THE POINT THAT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WITH RESPECT TO POTENTIAL BOB MARSHALL ADDITIONS HAS -- THROUGH THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE -- PROGRESSED MUCH FURTHER THAN FOR OTHER ROADLESS AREAS IN MONTANA.

I CHAIRED THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT DEVELOPED OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE BOB MARSHALL, AND I WILL CONFINE THE REST OF MY TESTIMONY TO THAT PART OF THE BMA'S PROPOSAL.

AS A RE[illegible]T OF RARE II, TWO AREAS ON THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST WERE [illegible]OMMENDED FOR ADDITION TO THE BOB MARSHALL: GRIZZLY BASIN AND A LARGE AREA, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS MONTURE, EXTENDING FROM JUST WEST OF SEELEY LAKE EASTWARD TO THE HELENA NATIONAL FOREST. THE BMA ENDORSES THE GRIZZLY BASIN ADDITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE MONTURE ADDITION AS DESCRIBED IN THE ALLIANCE'S PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE BOB MARSHALL COMPLEX.

MONTURE HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED AND USED AS WILDERNESS BY WESTERN MONTANA HUNTERS, FISHERMEN, HIKERS, CAMPERS AND HORSEMEN. BETWEEN SIX AND TEN OUTFITTERS AND DUDE RANCHES DEPEND ON A PRISTINE MONTURE FOR THE HEALTH OF THEIR BUSINESSES AND THEIR CONTINUED LIVELIHOOD. AND THE LAND HAS

IMPRESSIVE WILDERNESS QUALITIES IN ITS OWN RIGHT: SCENIC SPLENDOR, SOLITUDE, AND WILDLIFE. IT ENCOMPASSES IMPORTANT BIG GAME MIGRATION ROUTES, AND GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT

MONTURE ALSO CONTAINS SOME COMMERCIAL TIMBER PARTICULARLY IN LOWER ELEVATION AND PERIPHERAL AREAS, AND THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL TIMBER INDUSTRY FOR TREES VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED IN ADVANCE THAT NO ONE WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE FOREST SERVICE'S RARE II RECOMMENDATION. NO ONE WAS.

WHEN WE SET OUT TO DEVELOP A BMA PROPOSAL FOR MONTURE, WE WERE AWARE OF THIS POLARIZATION, AND WE DECIDED TO CONFRONT IT FROM THE OUTSET. I CONTACTED BOTH CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL AND PYRAMID LUMBER COMPANY AS THE TWO INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY MANAGEMENT OF THE MONTURE AREA. THEY AGREED TO A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MYSELF AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BMA, INCLUDING OUTFITTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RECREATIONAL USER GROUPS. FROM THE OUTSET THE TONE WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPEN. THE INDUSTRY MADE US MORE AWARE OF THEIR NEEDS, WHILE WE ACQUAINTED THEM WITH THE NEEDS OF THE OUTFITTING AND GUIDING INDUSTRY AND THE CONSEQUENCES SOME OF THEIR PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE ON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION.

AS A RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, THE BMA, CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL AND PYRAMID LUMBER HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATION, AN AGREEMENT THAT WAS FURTHER REFINED FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH ORVILLE DANIELS, SUPERVISOR OF THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, TO MINIMIZE CONFLICTS WITH THE LOLO FOREST PLAN. THE DETAILS OF THIS AGREED UPON BOUNDARY APPEAR ON THE MAP THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE COMPLETE BMA PROPOSAL.THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS CONCESSIONS FROM BOTH SIDES; HOWEVER, IT PROVIDES FOR MORE HARVESTABLE TIMBER THAN EITHER THE FOREST SERVICE'S RARE II RECOMMENDATION OR THE TIMBER INDUSTY'S OWN RECOMMENDATION WHEN THE EFFECTS OF THE LOLO FOREST PLAN ON THE TIMBER HARVEST ARE CONSIDERED. AT THE SAME TIME IT CREATES A LARGER WILDERNESS AND ALLEVIATES MOST OF THE CONCERNS OF BOTH THE OUTFITTING INDUSTRY AND THE PUBLIC WILDERNESS USERS OF WESTERN MONTANA, CONCERNS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED IN A FEW MOMENTS BY TWO OTHER BMA MEMBERS, C. B. RICH OF THE DOUBLE ARROW RANCH AND DR. JIM BROGGER, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA AND PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE.

THE ONLY REMAINING POINT TO BE MADE IS THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION PROBABLY COMES AS CLOSE TO A CONSENSUS AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET IN WHAT IS DOOMED TO BE A CONTROVERSIAL AREA. BOTH THE BMA AND LOCAL TIMBER INTERESTS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY EAGER TO SEE A WILDERNESS RESOLUTION IN THIS AREA. THE AGREED UPON BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATION, ARRIVED AT OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE BMA, CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL AND PYRAMID LUMBER, REPRESENTS A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT AND A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE A VERY DIFFICULT WILDERNESS ALLOCATION AS AMICABLY AS POSSIBLE. I SINCERELY HOPE THE COMMITTEE WILL SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Bob. Jim.

STATEMENT OF JAMES N. BROGGER, CHAIRMAN, BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA

Mr. BROGGER. Thank you. My name is Jim Brogger and I farm at Ronan and also practice veterinary medicine part-time there. As you both know, I resided and practiced in Missoula for some 25 years prior to that. I am a past president of the Bob Marshall Alliance and the current chairman for the Back Country Horsemen of America. The Back Country Horsemen of America is an organization of stock users with ten different groups in Montana and Idaho. Each range in size from around 20 to 250 members. As a member organization of the Bob Marshall Alliance, Back Country Horsemen supports the concept of the Bob Marshall additions and agrees with the boundaries as presented.

Now, I also would like to address specifically the Monture question today. As you know, John, from our conversations in the past, that's one that I feel a personal attachment to. Probably because of the accessibility to Missoula I, like lots of people in this area, have used it over several years. I'm sure I've traveled in there for over 20 years. Also, I, like the majority of people who use it, in the beginning thought that it really was a part of the Bob Marshall. I think that it takes a few trips into the area before people realize that the boundary sign for the Bob Marshall boundary is roughly some 15 miles above the end of the trail at the Monture guard station.

We make a summer trip or two into the area and I also, for a number of years, have put a fall hunting camp in the Youngs Creek area, and from my observations and having met and discussed this with both many private parties and the eight commercial outfitters with whom I am personally acquainted that are in this vicinity, I'm convinced that to eliminate Monture as a part of that wilderness would put an increase—and eventually roaded, of course—would increase the pressure on both the Youngs Creek and the Danaher basins to the point where the resource would not be able to sustain it.

Coming out last fall with a load of elk and a pack string about the third day of the season, I noted that—throw that in there—I noted that there were about 12 private parties that I happened to come in contact with on my way out between Youngs Pass and the end of the road, small parties, people that don't have the amount of stock that it takes to go clear on in, but who are very capable of recreating and hunting in an area like that.

And I think it was significant that there was one party of five fellows who had hauled their horses all the way from Billings to hunt that area. Now, I'm sure that if it were not really considered a part of that wilderness and were not roaded, they wouldn't have bothered to do it because it wouldn't have been worth their time.

So, the point I'm making here is these wilderness areas are for all Montanans, not just those of us who happen to live on the immediate perimeter, and they are used by Montanans more than we sometimes realize.

I think that due to the increased demand for wilderness in an attempt to protect what we have, obviously the managing agencies in some areas have found it necessary to start to impose restrictions of one kind or another, either reservation or permit system. Certainly that's one thing we've been pleased that we've been able to avoid in our wilderness areas adjacent to this region up to this point in time. That begins to erode the personal freedoms of choice that the American public has enjoyed in the use of our public lands. I certainly hope that it will be a long time before it will be necessary to think about something like that in this region. By eliminating those areas on the perimeter of the Bob Marshall that have for years been regarded as wilderness and used as wilderness by our citizens, I think you'll push this day a lot closer. Monture falls into that category. I think it very much deserves wilderness protection. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Jim. That concludes this panel.

George, would you lead off, please.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE VOGT, MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. VOGT. Senator Melcher, members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, ladies and gentlemen. I am George Vogt of Sula, Mont. For 26 years I taught in Montana school systems, have ranched and still own a cattle operation in the Sula basin, parts of which came into my family's ownership 97 years ago.

In that vast areas of the United States are administered by Federal agencies, I find myself increasingly concerned about the uses of some of these lands. Now, we have before us 22.9 million acres that have been endorsed by the administrations of various agencies to add to the 19 million presently set aside for enjoyment of the wilderness which would make a total of 41.9 million acres. These figures are according to the released RARE II environmental statement, page 5.

These are lands proposed to be locked in for exceedingly limited uses. This is an abandonment of the multiple-use criteria, long a cardinal principle for the administration of these lands at a time when we have increasing uses for timber, housing, minerals, and jobs for the unemployed. We are told to be unconcerned, but wilderness areas, when set aside, allow a period of exploration for minerals. However, a news story in the Missoulian, June 22, 1983 reports, and I quote:

> The Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that each of nine United States Borax plans to expand exploration in the Cabinet Wilderness would jeopardize the threatened grizzly bear.

I continue to quote:

> The opinion potentially means the Borax will be unable to complete exploration of its Cabinet Wilderness claims before the 20-year period for establishing mining claims runs out at the end of the year.

And quote, "It seems we have a choice. The grizzly bear or provision for our future needs."

We have also been told that cattle of permittees in these areas may continue to graze in the wilderness. However, restriction and

requirements and reported cases made it impossible to continue this use. The question arises as to whether certain methods are implemented to discourage or prevent permitted production and exploration in wilderness.

Originally, I read there were more than 20 essential minerals vital to our production and defense that must be imported, some of which come from unfriendly countries. Surely, we have a good example of what can happen to throw our Nation and much of the world into a tailspin when a cartel of oil-producing countries has us at their mercy. To add 22.9 million acres to the wilderness lands will exclude from development large parts of our last frontiers, some of which are in Montana's overthrust belt, a known potential.

How can an agency, in its evaluation, determine what minerals are in an area without exploration or what yet unknown materials may be vital to all of us. Congress can open the areas. Exploration can be made. But these actions take time. Often much time and with much difficulty in a roadless area. A mineral supply may be an urgent demand. Let us not jeopardize, through tunnel vision, what well may be fulfillment of economic and defense requirements to satisfy a limited number of some very vocal people.

Montana has made more than its share of contributions of land to the rest of the United States. In Ravalli County, 75 percent of our land Federal or State owned. Our unemployment rate has been 18.8 percent and has dropped this spring to only 14.8 percent. To the complaints of our losses to Eastern corporations can well be added the loss of quantities of Montana land to Federal agencies.

I favor accepting some of the RARE II recommendations, and ask that these Federal agencies be released to carry on their administrative duties, but I am adamantly opposed to any more land going into wilderness areas, 3,107,000 acres is enough for Montana to contribute. Let's be fair. Let's be just, let's be farsighted in our decisions. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT J. BLANDFORD, RESOURCE MANAGER, LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.

Mr. BLANDFORD. I'm Bob Blandford, resource manager of Louisiana-Pacific out of Moyle Springs, Idaho.

Louisiana-Pacific Corp. feels the RARE II process has gone on too long and would like to get it resolved. Louisiana-Pacific would like to have congressional legislation declare that the RARE II process is sufficient and release areas recommended for nonwilderness. We don't need to spend millions of dollars restudying these areas. Presently, with the Ninth Circuit Court decision, any timber sale that is in an area covered by RARE II, is subject to appeal or lawsuit. This decision puts the Forest Service and industry in a bad position. Since the Forest Service knows these sales can be terminated by any individual, they will be forced to either reduce the cut, harvest an area that is under a lower priority to remove, or take a chance and lay out a timber sale and hope it doesn't get appealed.

Louisiana-Pacific currently logs the majority of their timber on the Kootenai National Forest, the Yaak and Cabinet ranger district. The Yaak district is presently trying to access lodgepole stands susceptible to the Rocky Mountain pine beetle. They try to

remove the timber, when possible, prior to infestation or to get the timber moved prior to its deterioration. If timber sales on this district are appealed, it will result in increased beetle population, and a product that becomes less valuable with time and a corresponding loss of revenue to the Government. This would disrupt the employment in Lincoln County which is 75 percent dependent on the Kootenai National Forest.

The Cabinet District has over 50 percent of its acreage involved in the 1910 burn. Therefore, it is to a large degree unroaded, not because it doesn't have the potential for raising timber, but because there hasn't been mature timber to remove. The Forest Service is currently managing some of this unroaded area, now that the timber is becoming of commerical size. If the Forest Service isn't logging in these areas now, then, they are forced into either reducing the cut or logging other areas they would have preferred to have waited on due to silvicultural, wildlife, hydrology, and other constraints.

I appreciate this opportunity to participate in this hearing, thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Lerah Kelly?

Mr. FENNESEY. Excuse me, my name is Mark Fennesey. I'm with the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce.

Senator MELCHER. You want to testify in lieu of Debbie Mason?

Mr. FENNESEY. That is correct.

Senator MELCHER. Will you spell your name for us?

Mr. FENNESEY. Yes, F-e-n-n-e-s-e-y, president of the Libby area Chamber of Commerce.

STATEMENT OF MARK FENNESEY, PRESIDENT, LIBBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. FENNESEY. We have had, during the conception of the proposed Kottenai National Forest plan two different committees studying the plan as it was set out earlier this year. Those committees were looking at the plan from the specific impact of the proposed ski hill in the Libby Area and the general impact of the plant itself on the forest. After reviewing that plan, we made specific recommendations to the Forest Service. For the purposes of this hearing today I think we would like to state that we support the specific proposals of the Forest Service for the Scotchman Peak area. We also support the specific proposals of the Forest Service for the Ten Lakes Wilderness Area. The various other areas that are under roadless designation at this time we, again, support the recommendations as contained in the Forest Service plan. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Lerah Kelly.

STATEMENT OF LERAH KELLY, WOMEN IN TIMBER

Ms. KELLY. Senator Melcher, Congressman Williams, members of the subcommittee and fellow Montanans. All of us here today have taken time from our jobs and personal activities to come to Missoula to express our concerns on the RARE II. For that opportunity I thank you. Hopefully, this subcommittee will go on record as

being instrumental in finally resolving the issue of wilderness and nonwilderness recommendations.

My name is Lerah Kelly; I am a native of Montana, a member of Women in Timber, and politically active in the Libby County Democratic Club. My family and I recently built a log home in the Yaak Valley which is adjacent to the Mount Henry Wilderness Study Area. For these reasons, I feel that I'm a shareholder in the future of Montana.

I'm employed by the St. Regis Paper Corp. in Libby, Mont., where I share the responsibility of growing 1 million conifer seedlings each year to outplant and harvested fee timberlands.

This particular seedling I have in my hand is 5 months old and, yet, it has already been designated a place to grow this coming fall. However, had this seed from this tree been collected when the Mount Henry study plan was initiated in 1972, it would still be waiting in cold storage as we are, for the never-ending studies and litigation to be finalized.

Had this tree been planted 11 years ago on those acres of Mount Henry for which the Lodgepole Mountain Pine Beetle has destroyed, not hundreds, but thousands of overmature lodgepole pine, it would be today 14 feet tall and 4 inches in diameter. Certainly, a pleasant reminder that 70 years from now there will be a job waiting for a Yaak logger, a lumber mill worker and several businessmen who will provide services in Libby, Mont.

In 80 years, gentlemen, our seedling, because a decision had been made, will be capable of yielding 900 board feet of merchantable timber. Thirteen of these trees will provide the necessary wood products to build the average home in the United States. Well, neither Mount Henry nor the other areas that are caught up in the RARE II are going to be a part of that tradition if we cannot make the commitments that will resolve this pending issue.

So far, there has been 11 years of study, appeals, delays, lawsuits, and congressional actions. You guess the number of dollars. The loss of valuable wood, the complete waste of time, labor and resources.

From Congressman to timber cruiser, from the lawyers to taxpayers, Mount Henry is the classic of delay. A true monument of waste. Gentlemen, the point is—time is of the essence. Thank you for letting me speak.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF CONRAD PETERSON, CODIRECTOR, WESTERN SANDERS COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. PETERSON. I'm Conrad Peterson, I'm with the Western Sanders County Taxpayers Association, a codirector.

We realize the need for wilderness area and we support the original, emphasize original, Forest Service recommendation for RARE II of 1979. Nothing more. The Sanders County is going to suffer the blunt of the wilderness area concerning the Scotchman Wilderness Area. We would like to make a few important facts clear. There is a major east-west Highway No. 200 running the entire length of the straight on 1 present proposed boundary, a second major north-south Highway 56 on the other boundary.

In summation, there are two major highways on section A involving 18,450 acres. And additional private property owners are also on three sides of this, and I'm referring to the Pillick Ridge area and that area that they are referring to and mining and timber, also.

Also, the only large commercial gravel pit is 100 yards above in the proposed RARE II area and it's 15 miles in either direction for the State of Montana or Sanders County to find an adequate source of gravel.

The Federal agencies have provided documented proof of minimal value in the areas. In bulletin 1467 the Bureau of Mines has issued an additional report, 91 pages, on its findings in this Pillick Ridge area, also. While we are open in negotiations, we people in Sanders County realize that a majority of our tax base comes from one quarter of the land, which is private. The balance is in either Federal, State, or reservation lands; and, therefore, we are extremely concerned about what may happen in this proposed wilderness area. We are hoping that a reasonable solution and boundaries can be reached. This proposal also, as it exists now, has the makings for continuous conflict and chances for violation are extremely great considering it's right up against our private property lines and up against our major highways, and it's going to turn the Forest Service into a policing agency for violations up there more than it's going to help.

We feel a multiple use buffer zone is needed between the wilderness and private area and, therefore, recommend that we do move back to the original Forest Service recommendation of 1979, rather than the existing one. Our tax base is severely limited. We need what revenue we can receive for our schools, our children and our education in the area. We are underemployed and another important consideration is the local people are being denied access to water in these areas for agricultural and hydroelectric generation that we can't reach at this time. Thank you, gentlemen.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Peterson follows:]

WESTERN SANDERS COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

We could support the original Forest Service recommendation of Rare II, nothing more.

Anything more should require a new Rare III evaluation, especially the two sections marked A.

The following are many important considerations: Pillick Ridge Area.

There is now one major East-West highway 200 running the entire length of the state along the present proposed boundary, and a second major North-South highway 56 on the other boundary. In summaration, two major highways are on three sides of section A, 18,450 acres.

In addition, private property owners are also on all three sides. The only major large commercial low cost source of gravel in an existing location is also 100 yards above the highway. It is about 15 miles or farther in either direction to a reasonably priced source of rock material for both the State of Montana Highway Department and Sanders County. If energy conservation is important, then this gravel pit must be excluded from the wilderness.

Federal agencies have provided documented proof of mineral value in the areas. In Bulletin 1467, the Federal Bureau of Mines has issued a 91 page report of its' findings in favor of high mineral content. Some areas close to private property and highways, in fact, are roaded and also has surface aggregate that is needed by 3 different groups; state, county and private, for highway development and maintenance.

The method in which additions to the original Forest Service re-

commendations were made leave many of us with questions and doubts as to how the expansion was consummated, and would definately feel there was a need, and would demand a future Rare III study before agreeing to any other inclusions.

While negotiations could be kept open to explore solutions, the 18,450 acres in the Pillick Ridge area would not be acceptable as wilderness to our organization and we feel the majority of voters and taxpayers in Western Montana are of the same persuasion.

There is going to have to be a negotiated middle ground by both sides to see a wilderness area come into existance that is reasonable and makes practical sense, worked out by the parties involved. If this cannot be accomplished by the present task force group, then a Rare III will become necessary.

Proposed wilderness lies against major highway and private property owners, the majority are small land tracts. This proposal has the makings for continuous conflict, violations, and will turn the Forest Service into a police agency. Hunters and tourists will be unsatisfied, not to mention local voters and taxpayers. A multiple use buffer area is needed between wilderness and private land.

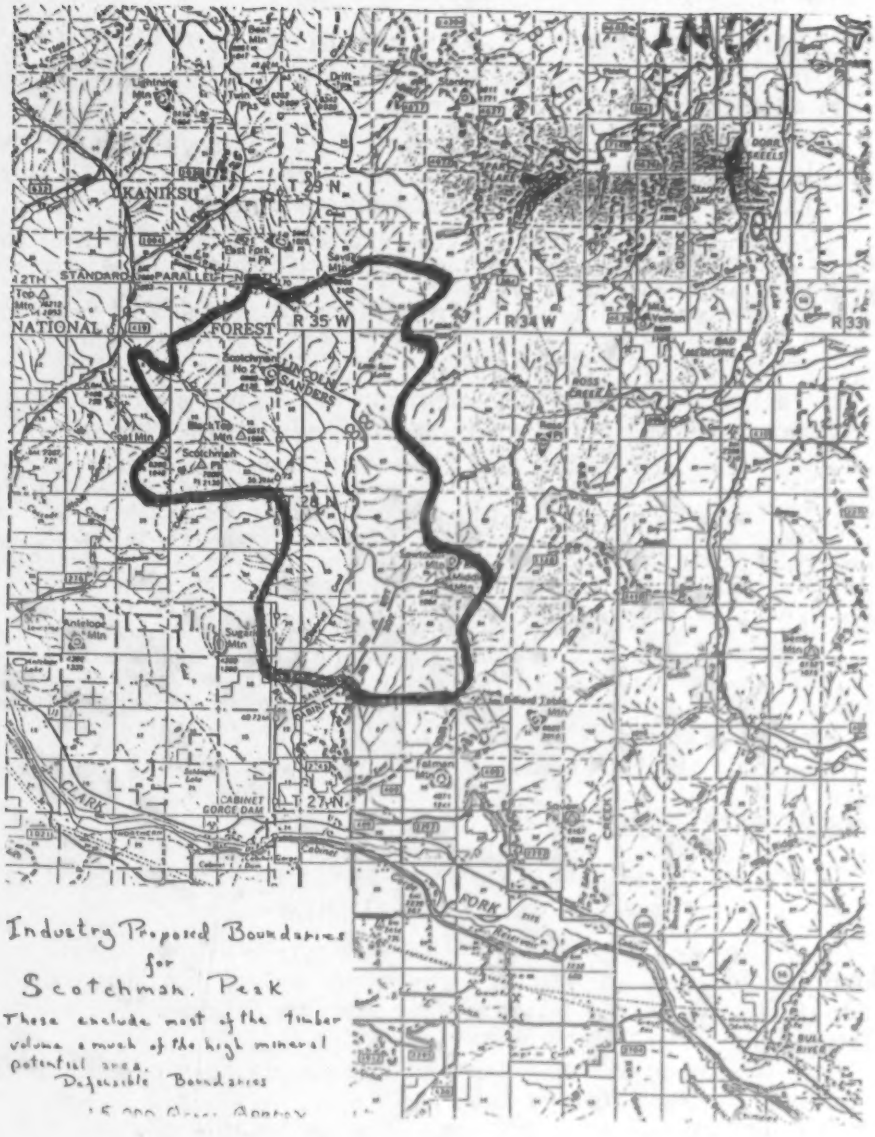
Sanders County has a high unemployment rate and low living standard. Three quarters of the county is federal, state, or reservation, leaving only one quarter for a tax base. We don't want additional Forest Service lands locked away denying revenue from timber and mining, plus providing employment for an economically depressed area. Voters and taxpayers are especially sensitive to this as revenues are doubling on private lands and future revisions are due in 1986 by the state of Montana.

Proposed Rare II will deny use of state water by local people for agriculture, and energy producing hydroelectric generation is held up because the Forest Service is not allowing any special use permits to put in buried main lines on federal land, even though studies indicate no adverse environmental impact would result. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

C D Peterson

Conrad D. Peterson
Charter Director



Industry Proposed Boundaries
for
Scotchman. Peak

These exclude most of the timber volume & much of the high mineral potential area.

Defensible Boundaries

Senator MELCHER. Marlin Green.

STATEMENT OF MARLIN GREEN, CHAIRMAN, GREEN MOUNTAIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AS PRESENTED BY CONRAD PETERSON

Mr. PETERSON. I would like to speak for Mr. Green. Marlin Green is the chairman of the Green Mountain Soil and water Conservation District in Sanders County and his statement reads:

To the Review Board on Scotchman Peaks Proposed Wilderness. The Green Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District goes on record as being against the present wilderness boundaries.

This district says that the mining, lumber, should be used and not locked up by the people like the wilderness club. They feel enough land has already been taken away and that the nation needs its timber and minerals that are still available.

Mr. Green is a hydraulic engineer and a civil engineer, and he feels an alarm bell going off in his mind concerning the water.

No one has mentioned water here. These RARE II areas, many of them are the sources of the water for the State of Montana. The State of Montana owns the water, if I understand correctly, but in many cases we are unable to reach that water because we can't get permits from the Federal Government to get across that ground to get the agricultural benefit from it, or in many cases, a hydroelectric benefit that is there, and I feel with the pressure being put on the State for the water from other areas, that we had better take a real close look of who has jurisdiction over the water in those proposed RARE II areas when outside interests start challenging us to that water, because it is a State asset for Montana, and I would really like to have that clarified for me as to what's going to happen there. I know once it's out of these areas, we have use to it, but the source is still Federal ground, even though it is a State resource.

That's all Mr. Green has to say to that point. Thank you, gentlemen.

Senator MELCHER. Marilyn Whitman.

STATEMENT OF MARILYN WHITMAN, MONTANA PRESIDENT, WOMEN IN TIMBER

Ms. WHITMAN. Gentlemen, I'm Marilyn Whitman, State president of Women in Timber. However, today, I'm appearing on behalf of myself, my husband and my two children. We are longtime residents of Montana.

Our livelihood is dependent on the steady flow of timber sales from our national forest lands.

My husband is a woods boss, because of his position we are keenly aware of the problems that are involved in trying to maintain steady work for his company's employees.

As a result of the recession in the logging industry for the last 2 years, we have seen the hardships that the unemployment brings to our families.

We ask that your committee act as quickly as possible to pass legislation that will provide the stability that the logging industry and their families need. Many loggers in the Flathead Valley area are having to leave the valley and the State to find work.

As residents of the Flathead Valley, we would like to register our objections to any additional wilderness designation for the Swan Crest area.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

STATEMENT OF REM KOHRT, MANAGER, STOLTZE-CONNER LUMBER CO.

Mr. KOHRT. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, my name is Rem Kohrt and I'm a professional forester, manager of the Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co. in Darby, Mont., and president of the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co. is a Federal timber dependent sawmill located in Ravalli County. We have about 100 employees, run 50 contract loggers, road builders, and employees and, of course, impact, in the secondary manner, a considerable more amount of employment in the local area.

About 75 percent of our raw material comes from the Bitterroot National Forest and the balance comes from the other national forests surrounding us. The Bitterroot National Forest is kind of unique. It already has 45 percent of its area in wilderness. About 9 percent of its area in study area. Twenty percent of it, well, 19 to 20 percent special or nonproductive category, and only about 27 percent of it available for timber management. On that remaining residual is what we have to work with.

This particular lumber company has operated almost continually through the last 3-year recession, and it's quite a no small feat and a tribute to the employees and the company itself. On June 7, a fire destroyed our sawmill so I'm probably the saddest witness you are going to have here today. We are going to rebuild the sawmill and hope to be operating by December of 1983.

We believe in the renewable timber resources. We believe in professional resource management. We feel that we can compete in the national markets. We have an obligation to our employees and the local communities, and we contribute to the regional economy's primary producers of goods and dollars in an area very heavy oriented to entitlement incomes and government payrolls, so we feel we are taking timber from the national forest and putting it to fine use.

Our biggest challenge is raw materials supply brought about by a steady erosion of the available timber base, and even though the timber manufacturing facilities have been diminishing in the area, we still find ourselves timber short, and Ravalli County remains a net timber importer of logs.

As a professional forester over the past 25 years, I'm always more and more keenly aware that the timber resource is present, and if it's taken care of, managed, it can provide for the needs of people and the amenities, also. In the same 25 years, I have witnessed this continual increase in wilderness and preservation activities. It is time we accomplished some good for the nation, I think, and I would like to see a legislative conclusion of the RARE II process.

I feel the Forest Service has done a very professional, sufficient study of these things, and I feel it's time that a conclusion be brought about. Legislative legislation seems to be the best conclusion. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kohrt follows:]

RARE II HEARINGS
Missoula, Montana
July 5, 1983

Honorable John Melcher, Presiding
Public Lands Subcommittee
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Ref: Resolution of RARE II by Legislation

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Rem Kohrt. I am a professional forester, Manager of Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co., and President of Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co. of Darby, Montana is a federal timber dependent sawmill located in Ravalli County. We employ some 100 employees, provide direct employment for 150 contract loggers and road builders and indirect employment for a larger segment of the local and regional economy. About 75% of our raw material comes from the Bitterroot National Forest, and the balance from other National Forests. The Bitterroot National Forest currently contains 45% Wilderness, 9% study area, 20% special or non-productive areas and only 27% available to timber management.

Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co. operated almost continually thru the current 3 year recession - no small feat and a tribute to the Company and our employees. On June 7, 1983, a fire destroyed our sawmill at a cost of 1½ million dollars. Other ongoing improvements will result in a total expenditure of nearly 2 million dollars in 1983. We plan to be operating by Christmas 1983.

This background is important for many reasons:
We believe in the renewable timber resource.
We believe in professional resource management.
We are a basic timber oriented firm capable of competing in national markets.
We have an obligation to our employees and local communities.
We contribute to the regional economy as primary producers of goods and dollars in an area too heavily oriented to entitlement incomes and government payrolls.

Our most difficult challenge is raw material supply brought about by a steady erosion of the available timber base. Despite diminishing timber processing facilities, Havalli County is a net timber importer(logs) because of reducing timber sell and excessive environmental demands on timber purchasers.

As a professional forester, I have been involved with federal timber for 25 years. It is obvious to most people that the renewable timber resource can satisfy the needs of people and communities-food, fiber, shelter and watershed. Timber management also satisfies the biologic needs of the timber resource itself, and enhances the long term desires of public in the areas of wildlife, recreation and esthetics. Observation and analysis shows the biggest stopper to optimum forest management in the U.S. is the lack of natural resource understanding on the part of public. This occurs at a time when national productivity is down, national debt is up, ability to compete internationally is down and public is demanding more amenities than our economic system can provide. It is easy to define the problem; it is difficult to demonstrate a solution to a short term non-understanding public. We have lived high on the economic, social, political and environmental hog on credit for so long we have lost our ability to relate to the basics.

In these same 25 years, I have witnessed a continual increase in wilderness and preservation activities where 'all take and no give' is the creed. This has resulted in the current RARE II mess and this very hearing. The U.S. Forest Service has followed the directions of Congress and the various administrations to study roadless areas with recommendations for wilderness, non-wilderness and further study. Their processess and methods have been entirely professional and sufficient. By using 1 part politics, 2 parts judicial challenge and 3 parts public emotions, preservationists have stymied a logical process from concluding..

For the good of this nation, the producing public, local communities and the timber resource itself, legislation is necessary to end this harmful wheelspinning of the past nearly 10 years.

A military philosopher once explained to this trooper that "We live in a great nation, blessed with a unique political system. It moves in such a slow and ponderous fashion we seldom as a nation make serious mistakes. Unfortunately we seldom accomplish much enlightened good for the same reason."

It is time we accomplish some good for this nation, for the renewable resources and for the taxpayer by legislative conclusion of the RARE II process.

I recommend and endorse the Montana Forest Products Industry Position for creation of modest amounts of additional wilderness, minimum

further study areas, and a return to multiple-use common sense management of the great majority of the RARE II areas. In the Bitterroot National Forest, no additional wilderness is necessary, prudent or desireable. Termination legislation for the RARE II process is timely, rational and needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rem Kohrt

Rem Kohrt, Manager
Stoltze-Conner Lumber Co.

Senator MELCHER. That concludes this panel. Thanks to all the panel members.

STATEMENT OF CLYDE SMITH, STATE LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT NO. 18, MONTANA

Mr. SMITH. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams. I think on behalf of the interests, both sides of this fence, we want to thank you for conducting these hearings. I'm sure we all want to get it resolved. My name is Clyde Smith, I'm a legislator and a logging contractor from Kalispell, Mont. I appear before this subcommittee wearing two hats. The hat of a first generation Montana logger and a hat of a first-term Montana State Legislator.

I sincerely hope I don't need to convey to you the enormous pride I feel as a logger. Montana's forests are certainly one of the most precious renewable natural resources on the face of Mother Earth. Managed properly, Montana's forests will provide timber products, wildlife habitat, watershed, fishery, recreations, and jobs forever. Yet as I speak to you today, the question remains whether or not Congress will allow Montana's forests the opportunity to provide these multiple values to the citizens of this State.

During Montana's recently completed State legislature I was impressed with two dominant problems. One was jobs for Montana citizens, and the other was money for State and local governments.

I need not dissertate that these two problems are directly related. Montana's local communities are heavily dependent on the resources of our forests. As you know, any percent of timber sale receipts are returned to Montana's counties to support our schools and transportation systems. Nonetheless, we see increasing pressure to reduce the timber base from which these revenues are generated.

The current stalemate concerning RARE II lands in Montana must be expeditiously resolved. As a logger, as a father, as a State legislator, and as a fellow citizen of Montana, I urge you to return to Washington, D.C., and accomplish that task. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

CLYDE SMITH LOGGING INC.
148 3 Mile Drive
KALISPELL, MT 59901

I APPEAR BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WEARING TWO HATS. THE HAT OF A FIRST GENERATION MONTANA LOGGER, AND THE HAT OF A FIRST-TERM MONTANA STATE LEGISLATER.

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING A FIRST GENERATION LOGGER IS THAT I CAN AFFORD THE TIME TO BE IN THIS ROOM TODAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, TWO SECOND GENERATION LOGGERS, MY TWO SONS, MUST NECESSARILY REMAIN IN THE WOODS ENSURING THAT THE WHOLE SMITH FAMILY DOESN'T STARVE TO DEATH.

BELIEVE ME, EVEN THOUGH THEY CANNOT BE HERE TODAY, MY SONS APPRECIATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS HEARING. WHAT YOU HEAR TODAY MAY SUBSTANTIALLY INFLUENCE THE OPPORTINITY FOR MY GRANDSONS (AND, PERHAPS, MY GRANDDAUGHTERS) TO BECOME THIRD GENERATION LOGGERS IN MONTANA.

I SINCERELY HOPE I DON'T NEED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE ENORMOUS PRIDE I FEEL AS A LOGGER. MONTANA'S FORESTS ARE CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE FACE OF MOTHER EARTH. MANAGED PROPERLY, MONTANA'S FORESTS WILL PROVIDE TIMBER PRODUCTS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, WATERSHEDS, FISHERIES, RECREATION AND JOBS, FOREVER!

YET, AS I SPEAK TO YOU TODAY, THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER OR NOT CONGRESS WILL ALLOW MONTANA'S FORESTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THESE MULTIPLE VALUES TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

DURING NONTANA'S RECENTLY COMPLETED STATE LEGISLATURE, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH TWO DOMINANT PROBLEMS. ONE WAS JOBS FOR MONTANA'S CITIZENS AND THE OTHER WAS MONEY FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. I NEED NOT DISSERTATE THAT THESE TWO PROBLEMS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED.

CLYDE SMITH LOGGING INC.
148 3 Mile Drive
KALISPELL, MT 59901

PERHAPS THE MOST DEGRADING EXPERIENCE IN ANY PERSONS LIFE IS SUPPRESSION OF THEIR DESIRE TO WORK--THE DENIAL OF OPPORTUNITY. MONTANANS ESPECIALLY, HAVE A HISTORY OF PURSUING OPPORTUNITY--OF TAKING THE CALCULATED RISK...TO DREAM, TO BUILD, TO FAIL OR SUCCEED. IT IS OUR HERITAGE TO THINK AND ACT FOR OURSELVES, ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF OUR CREATIONS. THOUGH SOME ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY MAY CONSIDER WORK UNWORTHY OF MANKIND, OR EQUATE JOBS WITH GREED, THEY MOST LIKELY PREFER SUBSISTENCE TO THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE.

MONTANA'S LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE RESOURCES OF OUR FORESTS. AS YOU KNOW, 25% OF FEDERAL TIMBER SALE RECEIPTS ARE RETURNED TO MONTANA'S COUNTIES TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. NONETHELESS, WE SEE INCREASING PRESSURE TO REDUCE THE TIMBER BASE FROM WHICH THESE REVENUES ARE GENERATED.

THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WHO PROFESS TO PRESERVE MONTANA'S TIMBERLANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, APPARENTLY IGNORE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MONTANANS TO MAKE OUR GREAT STATE THEIR HOME.

THE CURRENT STALEMATE CONCERNING RARE II LANDS IN MONTANA MUST BE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND JUDICIOUSLY RESOLVED. AS A LOGGER, AS A FATHER, AS A STATE LEGISLATOR, AND AS A FELLOW CITIZEN OF MONTANA, I URGE YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND ACCOMPLISH THAT TASK.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Clyde.

STATEMENT OF BILL CRISMORE, LIBBY, MONT.

Mr. CRISMORE. Thank you, I am Bill Crismore from Libby. I am an independent logger. I have had my business for 13 years, and is a little different than some of the loggers in the area. We purchase all of our timber that we log from the national forest, all being on the Kootenai Forest. We employ 20 employees at this time and log between 8 and 10 million board feet annually, depending on the size of the log. It is getting more difficult to buy the amount of timber needed to operate on a year with the decreasing of allowable cut on the national forest.

In Lincoln County, timber and mining are the backbone of our economy and without the ability to use the Forest Service lands prudently, we stand to lose jobs that are essential to our livelihood. With over 5 million acres of single use land, wilderness, primitive area, national parks, and refuge in Montana, is it sound management to take an area like Mount Henry, that has millions of feet of good commercial timber that is dying because of the Pine Bettle, and tie it up for further study? We do not think so. RARE II must be completed immediately as intended wilderness areas identified and areas not recommended for wilderness must be released for management of all other resources. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF LUM OWENS, KALISPELL, MONT.

Mr. OWENS. My name is Lum Owens, and I am a logging contractor and we operate a sawmill in Eureka also. We probably employ about 150 people, and the timber industry is so vital to us. We just came through 2 years of tough times. We had to reduce our people's wages, we had to cut back, we watched people that didn't live well, and it was just really a tough time. We go to a lot of these meetings, we keep kicking this thing around. Nobody wins, everybody spends a lot of time and effort, maybe people can't get to all these things but we have got to get the thing resolved and there is no way that we can afford more wilderness. Nobody can run their life and their business if you pretend like it was a budget. Could you afford to have 71 percent of your budget being tied up in a wilderness, a playground or any of these things? We all have to make a living and we will make a living, but it's you guys' job to get the thing resolved. We just can't keep kicking it around and wasting more time and more effort and more money. We have just got to get it done. We have to have industry or how are we all going to make a living in beautiful Montana. We love it here. We want to live here, but we have to have our people work. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES E. WISSENBACH, HAMILTON, MONT.

Mr. WISSENBACH. Yes, Charles Wissenbach. Thank you for this opportunity. Folks, I am really concerned. I have heard a lot about compromise, adjustment. It sounds like deals, and I understand why this thing is because the forest products industry is being held hostage by so much of the land being tied up, and they are all but on their knees and they have to come to any sort of agreement to

even survive. But this is not the way that decisions should be made in America. I say that we have got enough wilderness.

Now, as has been brought out in testimony here, there are some precious pieces of property that perhaps have not been included in wilderness. What is the solution? I think this should be your criteria, gentlemen. Acre in, acre out. For each additional acre put into wilderness, an acre should be withdrawn, and that, also, would help to readjust some of the injustices that have been done in the original creation of wildernesses. There are far too many already, but does that mean that of the acreage that is left that it should all be used? No, not at all. What it means is it should not be locked up. It should not be put forever out of our use, and I submit that when you put something in this wilderness lockup, it is out of our use probably forever, because the legislative process, being what it is, it is very improbable that it can go through the whole process, any piece of land, and be brought out again.

Now, I wish I could take—I'm just an ordinary millworker and I have worked in a sawmill for 10 years and the part of that was very good employment. It was steady employment and lately, it's gotten pretty rough, and I have been unemployed a lot and all but exhausted my unemployment benefits and have had to go as far as Vermont to get employment. Now, I'm not pleading for myself, because I can make it, but how unfair it is to these young people, high school dropouts, minorities, those that are just looking to start out their lives and have well-being. Up to a few years ago they could come in to a mill like ours and there was always work for them. If they were willing to apply themselves and work hard, a young person, if he could get a job and come in right now, he would be making almost $10 an hour. That's the minimum, $9.92 plus shift differential plus excellent benefits, health benefits and pension. Now, you tell me the Government program of any sort that can match that. We need more resources turned loose and used for this type of productive capability. These renewable resources which take the pressure off our nonreplaceable minerals. And the decisions we're making today can't be made final decisions. We don't know what the needs of the Nation are going to be in the future. This land, this area, these resources should be turned over to professional land managers in the Forest Service, and you say critics say that they don't know what they are doing, they haven't done a good job. Well, how come there are so many millions of acres now that folks think is so prime for wilderness and so untouched and so suitable if the Forest Service hasn't been doing a job of protecting them. Thank you, folks.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wissenbach follows:]

To: Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Water
From: Charles E. Wissenbach, Box 563, Hamilton, MT
Date: July 5, 1983 at Missoula, Montana
Subject: Testimony on RARE I I and Wilderness Lockup

I have been an hourly wage earner in the Forest Products Industry for the past ten year and have been on this earth since 1934. I would like to give my observations on where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. I don't have an elaborate testimony with extensive statistics and charts and eloquent rhetoric. But perhaps I don't need them for I have no desire to throw dust into your eyes and deceive. The issues I bring to your attention seem to me to be so plain that a school child could judge the merits of them.

I used to consider myself an Environmentalist. But now I want to make clear that I entirely disassociate myself with that once clean and sacred name which now carries with it connotations of political trickery, obstructionism, ruthlessness, foolishness, fanaticism, and even anti-Americanism. In short, it has been transformed into a dirty word. And yet I havn't changed much. I still admire the sensitivity of Robert Frost who would sacrifice a small percentage of productivity in mowing around a bird's nest, the dedication that Jesse Stuart reports his father had to the conservation of his land, the revitalization of abused lands championed by Louis Bromfield, and the love and reverent feeling for the land expressed by Montana's author, Lorney Faber. Even as a youth the treatment and fate of the American Indian touched the emotions of my heart as I mourned the destruction of their independence, their culture and environment. Incidentally, if as today's Super-Environmentalists claim, America does not need the resources of lands much larger than New England and New York State combined, I would maintain that in all fairness that land should be returned to the Native Americans to use as they see fit. Right here in the Bitterroot, not far from where I live, there is an annual pilgrimage of the descendants of a tribe that had invited the White Missionaries to their lands, welcomed the White settlers, learned the ways of agriculture and civilization, befriended and never fought the Whites, and then were thrust from their lands as victims of the Western Expansion of the United States. How pitiful to hear of these descendants' wistful desire that they could live again on a little farm where their ancestors had lived and from whence comes their heritage. They hearts mourn for their homelands as they visit the fair valley of the Bitterroot. If we can afford to lockup such a tremendous chunk of America, it proves we can compensate those we have deprived of their lands. In short, I recommend that instead of locking up the land we turn it over to the Indians and bring rejoicing to their hearts. They would use and enjoy the land much more than we of the mainstream culture ever could as backpackers. That was a digression to give a little perspective.

A job is being done on the productive worker in American society after the order of that done on the Indian. The main difference is that the Indian was too independent, courageous and proud to be a slave. Is there is an unwritten law that the wood product worker is exempt from the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Minority Protection Act. The worker is fair game today. The land resources that he depends upon for his livlihood can be locked up in reservations, his economic means torn from him in the ultimate of cruelties, tyrannies perpetrated on him and unjust exactions made of his labors. The common hard working producer in American society is as defenseless at the hands of the sophisticated as the American Indians were faced with Western organization and technology. Today, to the worker, the liberty we celebrate on the Fourth of July has become a sham and a delusion. For the toiler, the producer of all of America's material wealth, they have no mercy; they would yoke us as a beast of burden. The processes of government have become a field of war where we are virtually helpless.

Let us review our situation. A decade ago any healthy man could get a job in the woods or at a sawmill. Any of the oldtimers will verify that. Now, you are lucky not to be let go from the job you already have. It is extremely difficult to get a job now in the woods industry in our area. But it used to be that any young fellow could decide to get serious with his life and go to work in the forest industry anytime he wanted.

The Super-Environmentalist movement has resulted in a sort of reverse Midas touch. When they put their attention upon something it becomes scarce, expensive, or unattainable. My children have little

chance of getting employment in our area where formerly there were always jobs available for those willing to work hard. The price of gas is such that since the great gas shortage my folks have not traveled across the country to visit us again. Our April electric bill has gone from $31.67 in 1979 to $39.82 in 1981 to about $79.00 this year with us using less of it. The rates have gone up again so I estimate that next year it will cost us $86.00. The history before that was that electric costs continually went down. It was a wonderful cheap servant available to all Americans at a trifling cost. Now it has become a major cost. I shudder to think How I could meet the cost if I was heating by electricy. Farm lands are being abandoned as irrigations pumps become too expensive to operate, and American cities are filled with wood smoke as oil and electricty is too expensive for heating. The American industry was superior to any nation upon the face of the earth. Now with the costs and herassments and psycological handicaps engendered by Super Environmentalism our productivity is going down and we are losing out in competitive trade. Taxes are constantly becoming more of a burden as demonstrated by the fact that for many Americans their Social Security taxes come to more than their income taxes. And you are well aware what has happened to the cost of housing in America. It has become prohibitive. Can you remember that prior to Super-Environmentalism, from Colonial Times almost to the present, it was just assumed that every American would have his own home? It was within everyone's reach until just recently.

It is clear that Super-Environmentalism has gone too far and even worse, it has taken us in the wrong direction. If I was an enemy of America I would rejoice at the Super-Environmentalist movement and support it every way I could. I would reason this way: America needs to be trimmed down to size. We don't dare go in by force and take away a large part of its land and resources, but if we can get it locked up so that it can't be used, then that will suffice just as well. And if we can curtail the use of energy which allows American's to multiply their efforts, then our hordes can counter-balence their smaller population. Our economy and other cultural systems which maintain over 200 millions of peoples are much more fragil than the ecological systems that seem to be of such intense concern. The American way of life, liberty and prosperity is an endangered "species" today.

We had a fire at the mill a few years ago. Only part of it was built back because a lack of timber was forseen. A mill a few miles away was shut down and dismantled shortly after. Over the pass another mill has been closed and dismantled just recently. Our mill has been on reduced operations. The log yard is almost empty with no supplies built up for winter. Much income and many jobs have been lost. Almost invariably RARE II is cited as a major consideration in these decisions. A gigantic area of land is being held hostage to the lust of those greedy for more lockup. I estimate that 5,000 people in our area are suffering because of it. This is hurting the minorities and under-educated.

Do you realize that a high school dropout, who couldn't even read and write, could go into our mill and the lowest paid job there would start him from the first day at $9.92 per hour plus possible shift differential and excellent health and pension benefits. He can hold his head up start a family and enjoy the better things of life. He pays his share of taxes and spends his money creating jobs for others. Of course the timber has been locked up, the economy ruined, and these jobs arn't usually available now. But compare them with any of the jobs being offered in the classifieds, or with the prospects that government make work or subsidies offer. Let's stop cheating our minorities, school dropouts, and unemployed and release all the lands in RARE II to management by the Forest Service and get America back to work and recovery. With so much land already in wilderness, the rule should be "acre in, acre out." In other words, if there is something so unique in RARE II lands that it just has to be locked up, something that isn't so unique and which is needed for the welfare of America should be released out of current wilderness.

Montana has suffered enough from RARE II and it has sacrificed more than its fair share of land to lockup. Please release it all immediately and give us some relief. And finally, I quote from a letter to the editor as a plea to consider all of the environment. The writer warned that if we are not careful we can all go play Grizzly Adams except that it will be a little hard to enjoy because we'll be out of work and hungry when we should be in the midst of plenty.

"It seems to me that in our zest to protect our environment the one species that we've neglected is MAN. We too are an intergral part of the environment. And a quality environment means not only some clean air and a Wilderness to play in. A quality environment also means a decent home to live in (with heat and lights), good schools, food

in your belly, and a few coins to jingle in your pocket. And pride. A quality environment for man means a job and a chance to earn a living which provides all these things, including the schools paid for by taxes from working people, because no jobs means no income, and without an income you don't pay any taxes.

It is unreal to believe we can have our cake and eat it too. Surely we can do things without undue damage to the environment, but we simpy cannot supply food, shelter, and jobs for 220 million Americans by locking up all of our natural resources. When we import our oil, electricty, lumber, or whatever, we are not only exporting our dollars, we're also exporting our jobs and our taxes. We're exporting our strength."

So I appeal to you to consider the plight we are in through excessive and fanatic environmentalism as it is currently applied like an ideology or religion. Please release all of the lands in RARE II as quickly as possible. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charles E. Wissenbach

Charles E. Wissenbach

Sawmill Worker

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Charles.

STATEMENT OF ANTHONY C. COLTER, RESOURCE MANAGER, LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.

Mr. COLTER. My name is Tony Colter, and I'm a resource manager with Louisiana-Pacific Corp. at Trout Creek.

We strongly support sufficiency and release legislation for the Forest Service recommendations made on the RARE II with respect to wilderness and nonwilderness designations in and adjacent to the Cabinet district of the Kootenai National Forest and the Thompson-Plains district of the Lolo National Forest.

Specifically, we support the Forest Service proposed nonwilderness designations for all the RARE II areas in and adjacent to these two districts. In other words, we would agree to the following wilderness additions only: Scotchman Peak, the 27,644-acre proposal, Cabinet Face West, Cabinet Face East, and Chippewa Creek. More specifically, we oppose wilderness designations for the Trout Creek area, and Pillick Ridge area on Scotchman Peak.

In general, as relates to the areas I am referring to, both wilderness and nonwilderness, we feel the RARE II process was sufficient in addressing the wilderness issues. As was determined, most of these areas were found to be more valuable to the local communities and economy under multiple use management rather than the limited uses of wilderness.

The other alternative to resolving this issue would be a reevaluation of roadless areas during development of forest plans. Since both the Kootenai and Lolo National Forest plans have already been published, this would be an impractical, costly, and time-consuming solution which would probably render the same results as RARE II anyway.

It would also present unnecessary delays in current sales programs and planned development in RARE II nonwilderness areas. Enactments of sufficiency legislation will allow the Forest Service to manage nonwilderness areas without further legal ramifications. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, and thanks to all of the panel.

STATEMENT OF NANCY McGREW, CONDON, MONT.

Ms. MCGREW. This letter is being written to express support for alternative W. As residents of the Swan Valley and frequent users of the roadless area located here, this issue has great personal importance to us. Particularly, with regard to the Swan Front. As it now exists, it's a pristine and unspoiled area providing not only a buffer for the Bob Marshall Wilderness, but a readily accessible wild area for the many hunters, fishermen, hikers, horsemen, and cross-country skiers who live and visit here. What a shame it would be to disrupt the already fragile economic base that tourism helps support here by scarring the Swan Front's delicate face.

Also of great importance to us are the Mission Mountain Wilderness Addition, Monture Creek, Rocky Mountain Creek, and the Northern Swan Front Additions. It is our belief that any economic gains made through logging or mineral extraction would be more than offset by losses to local economies and tourism. People visit Montana to enjoy the untrammeled beauty, not to picnic in clearcuts strewn with logging waste. As ones who have worked in the logging field, we stress that any timber taken from these areas would be marginal in quality and quantity.

Due to the economic paranoia permeating from these times, we support the soft release option which would allow reevaluation of the remaining lands after 15 years. Why should we give in to the greedy demands of those who would seek to exploit every piece of land made available to them for a few more transient dollars. It seems to us that we should leave the door ajar for the possibility that these other areas might some day be included into our magnificent wilderness system.

We would like to emphasize that this letter is being written by one whose livelihood is directly provided by the lumber industry. However, we feel there comes a point where a person should choose between his heart and his pocketbook. This is written by my husband and myself, and I thank you for listening.

STATEMENT OF KEN KNUDSON, HELENA, MONT.

Mr. KNUDSON. Chairman Melcher, Senator Baucus, my name is Ken Knudson. I'm a fish and wildlife biologist here today to support conservationist's alternative W which would add approximately 2.2 million acres to Montana's wildlife heritage. I'm also vice president of the Montana wildlife Federation, but today I'm here representing myself and several friends who are unable to register in time to appear before you today. Their letters, however, will be forthcoming. Also supporting alternative W and sufficiency language for the release of the other approximately 3 million acres that are still roadless in our State.

These remaining de facto wilderness areas, however, must not be eliminated forever from possible wilderness designation. But those retaining wilderness characteristics, 10 to 15 years from now, should be reevaluated in the normal course planning cycles for possible inclusion into wilderness.

In addition to supporting the total concept in areas in alternative W, I would like to take a moment of your time today to draw attention to one of the areas in Lolo Forest that is very special to me

and the friends I mentioned earlier. It's the last remaining large roadless area within the mosaic of clearcuts near my hometown. It provides elk winter and calving areas in a valley where these kinds of valuable wildlife areas are fast disappearing to subdivisions and ranchettes. It is truly spectacular mountain lake country with over 20 lakes scattered over roughly 40,000 acres of the rugged Cabinet Mountains. It is an area that would cost taxpayers exorbitant prices to build roads into the steep and mountainous terrain to remove marginal timber stands in areas that would be slow to regenerate, if, indeed, they every would. To me, personally, it's a place where a grade school kid over 20 years ago first climbed into real wildlands virtually out of my parents' back door. Upon returning to this roadless country this last month, this same, though more experienced hiker found the heart of the area unchanged, but clearcuts and roads now abut right against the last of what is left of the Cube Iron-Silcox RARE II study area.

This area is truly unique. Not only because of the exceptional density of alpine lakes, many of which contain healthy trout population, and the area's incredible security value to deer, elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, black bear, and even occasional grizzly bears, but also because of its very close proximity to a major town and highway. Most wildlands in our State are excluded retreats far from habitation. But the Cabinet Lake Country around Mount Silcox, Cube Iron is truly in the backyard of Thompson Falls.

More roads, clearcuts, mines, subdivision, and other forms of development will continue to spread in and around this part of Lolo Forest since resource extraction has and will continue to be a significant part of the area's economy. I only hope, as do some of the others who live or who have lived at the foot of Mount Silcox, at least what is still left of the wildlands surrounding this majestic peak, will be left for all future generations of grade school kids and grade school kids, at heart, to enjoy.

The alpine lake country just behind town is certainly a vital part of what makes Thompson Falls such a pleasant and unique place to live or visit. I hope in your good judgment that you'll be sure to include this area, along with the others in alternative W for wilderness designation. A better management use will never be found for these few remaining wildlands and I would like to thank all of you for coming back to Montana to listen and accept testimony on this critical land use issue.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Let's see, Byron Weber will testify in lieu of Alice Austin.

STATEMENT OF BYRON WEBER, PRESIDENT, FIVE VALLEYS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. WEBER. Thank you. My name is Byron Weber. I'm president of the Five Valleys Audubon Society, and I would like to thank the Montana congressional delegation for conducting these hearings on such a vital natural resource as our wilderness areas. Five Valley Audubon Society is here to offer a proposal which we hope will be considered as part of your final decision.

Name just 1 acre of land preserved in the past which the public has regretted today. Now, think of areas which weren't preserved

in the past which we wish were in their natural state today. For the first, I personally can't think of any acreage, although I'm sure there must be. But for the second, I can think of numerous examples of areas that have been destroyed through, quote, "development." No one can place a value on the few acres in Central Park. The monetary amount alone would be staggering, but when the social and psychological components of a park are entered into the figure, the value is too great to measure. The same line of reasoning can be used for natural parks and wilderness areas. Our attitude in the past was to consider all natural areas as a possible source of income. Why leave the land barren when we can build on top of it or dig into it and receive a monetary compensation. Gentlemen, I'm here today to propose to you that we can leave these lands in wilderness and at the same time, develop the natural capacities of these areas.

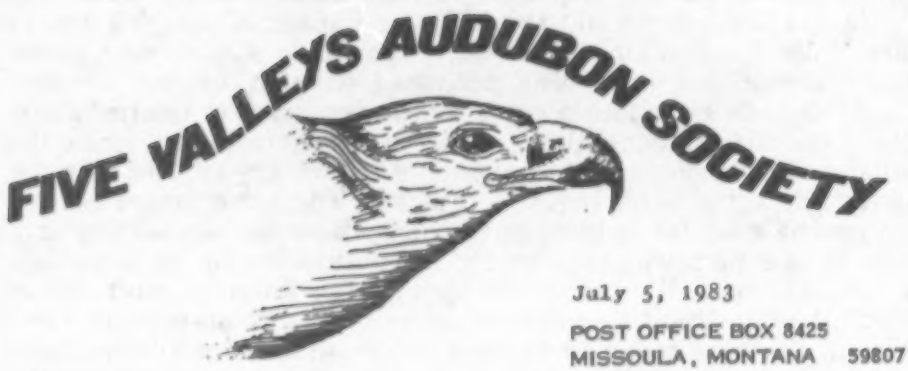
The results of numerous surveys in this booklet, which I have before me, "Outdoors in Montana," compiled by the department of fish, wildlife and parks this year, clearly indicates that numerous tourists are attracted to the State for its natural beauty. The percent of people lured to the mountain region is higher than in the eastern counties. That is not to say the prairie does not offer tourist attractions. The opposite is true. But there is an edge for tourist preference in the mountains. Why is this? Aside from the diversity of activities in the mountain, a simple glance at the map of the United States readily shows the Rocky Mountains are unique and appealing.

Because this area is so attractive, millions of tourists spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year in Montana. The old west region nonresident travel and recreation study in 1979 reported that 2.5 million nonresidents spent $252 million. Another 1979 study claimed that 3.5 million nonresidents visited the State and left 5 million in the State's coffers. Regardless of the study you choose, it's clear that people come to western Montana to spend their vacation time here.

The three most popular activities for a nonresident visiting, special attractions were, visiting special attractions and historical sites, camping, and hiking. Thirty-four activities were listed in the survey. Fifth on that list, incidentally, was primitive camping. Wilderness areas clearly offer the nonresidents their reason for visiting the State. Clearly the trend is toward more tourism. We should exploit this fact and increase our wilderness and primitive areas. This is an opportunity and we should take advantage of it now. The natural surroundings left natural will foster a steady income for the State. The financial stability from tourist dollars is desperately needed in western Montana where the economic picture is dependent solely on the timber industry.

The key here is commitment, gentlemen. We need to commit ourselves to the tourist industry to preserve those areas which are attractive to them. Thank you for your time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Weber follows:]



July 5, 1983

POST OFFICE BOX 8425
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59807

Testimony before the Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate

Federal Building, Room 206, East Broadway
Missoula, MT

Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Marlenee, and Congressman Williams:

I would like to thank the Montana Congressional Delegation for conducting these hearings on such a vital natural resource as our wilderness areas. The Five Valley Audubon Society is here to offer a proposal which we hope will be considered as a part of your final decision.

Name just one acre of land preserved in the past which the public has regretted today... Now think of areas which weren't preserved in the past which we wish were in their natural state today. For the first I personally can't think of any acreage (although there may be) but for the second, I can think of numerous examples of areas which have been destroyed through "development". No one can place a value on the few acres in Central Park. The monitary amount alone would be staggering but when the social and psychological components of the park are entered into the figure the value is too great to measure. The same line of reasoning can be used for our national parks and wilderness areas. Our attitude in the past was to consider all natural areas as a possible source of income. Why leave the land barren when we can build on top of it or dig into it and receive a monetary compensation for it? Gentlemen, I am here today to propose to you that we can leave these lands in wilderness and, at the same time, develope the industrial capacities of these areas.

The results of numerous surveys in the booklet, Outdoors in Montana, compiled by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks this year clearly indicate that numerous tourists are attracted to the state for its natural beauty. The percent of people lured to the mountain regions is higher than in the eastern counties. That is not to say that the prairie does not offer tourist attractions. The opposite is true and these studies demonstrate that. But there is an edge for tourist preference for the mountains. Why is this? Aside from the diversity of activities

in the mountains, a simple glance at a map of the United States readily shows that the Rocky Mountains are unique and appealing.

Because this area is so attractive, millions of tourists spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year. The "Old West Region Nonresident Travel and Recreation Study" in 1979, reported that 2.5 million nonresidents spent $252 million dollars.Another 1979 study by Western Analysis, Inc. claimed that 3.5 million nonresidents visited the state and left $500 million dollars in the state's coffers. Regardless of the study you choose, it is clear that people are willing to travel to Montana and spend their vacation time here.

The three most popular activities for the nonresident were visiting special attractions and historical sites, camping, and hiking. Thirty-four activities were listed in this survey. Fifth on the list, incidentally, was primitive camping. Wilderness areas clearly offer the nonresident their reason for visiting the state.

The resident Montanan has similar preferences. The three most popular recreation activities were the most sedentary:picnicking, driving for pleasure, and walking for pleasure. We like to drive around our natural areas, visit their peripheries, and walk through them.

"The Montana Tourism and Marketing Plan" by Davidson-Peterson Associates, Inc. is summarizedby the following passage...

> We believe that a strong tourism growth potential does exist. The main obstacles are in the minds of the people,i.e., their lack of awareness of what Montana offers and how to take advantage of these offerings.

Taking this as well as long term gasoline prices into consideration, a Montana Department of Administration study, "The Flathead Basin: an Economic Assessment" estimates a 60 percent increase in tourist related employment in northwestern Montana between 1980 and the year 2000. This is largly due to the tourist's longer stay resulting in an average growth rate of 3 percent per year. The assumption is made by the study group that this figure could also be applied to the rest of the state.

Clearly the trend is toward more tourism. We should exploit this fact and increase our wilderness and primitive areas.This is an opportunity and we should take advantage of it now.The natural surroundings left natural will foster a steady income for the state. This financial stability from tourist dollars is desperately needed in western Montana where the economic picture is dependent upon the timber industry.The key here is commitment, gentlemen. We need to commit ourselves to the tourist industry and to preserve those areas which are attractive to them.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Byron Weber

Byron Weber, president

Senator MELCHER. John Frederick.

STATEMENT OF JOHN FREDERICK, JR., ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. FREDERICK. My name is John Frederick. I'm representing the North Burnt Fork Basin Preservation Association and four residents of Polebridge: Tom Owen, Rosalind Yanishevsky, Douglas H. Chadwick, and Frank Vitale, whose written testimony I bring today.

The North Burnt Fork Basin Preservation believes that the portion of Glacier View ranger district of Flathead National Forest, that adjoins Canada in the Whitefish Range called the North End, is worthy of wilderness designation. The three areas of the North End, Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, and Thompson-Seton should be included in a statewide RARE II bill.

The North End is bisected by two roads. Trail Creek Road follows an old Kootenai Indian trail going east and west which separates Mount Thompson-Seton from Mount Hefty and Tuchuck. The narrow north-south Frozen Lake Road is only 10.3 miles in length from Trail Creek Road to the Canadian border, and divides the Tuchuck from the Mount Hefty area. The remainder of the North End is roadless.

Aerial photos and visual observations of North End reveal a checkered patterning of clearcuts encroaching from all directions. The heart of the North End, however, remains untouched. As a Flathead Forest plan now is written, the North End is allocated to grizzly management which is fine, except that it means logging to make grizzly forage and the placement of roads for logging in a roadless area. Wilderness designation is a sure means of protecting North End.

There are many reasons for wilderness designation. Solitude and beauty are found in North End. Driving up the North Burnt Fork Basin Road about 5 miles from Canada, one can see the beauty of the Mount Hefty area without walking into it. Mount Hefty can also be seen about 5 miles into Canada on the North Burnt Fork Basin of the Flathead River which I canoed last week. There is still snow on these mountains. When walking into this defacto wilderness, all you hear normally is the wind or the creek. In the next couple weeks, however, one might hear seismic blasting by Western Geophysical. Otherwise, the hand of man is virtually absent in the core of these roadless areas.

The North End contains threatened and endangered species. The threatened grizzly bears have the highest documented density in the lower 48 States. The North End may well provide the best opportunity for natural reestablishment of the endangered gray wolf away from people and livestock.

The North End is expected to contain rare plants such as the Franklin Orchid, which has been reported only a few times in Montana and a kind of rhododendron. Unfortunately, the man who inventoried the plants, I think, was injured by a grizzly bear and is on crutches.

Creating a wilderness only 5 miles from the proposed open-pit mine by Sage Creek Coal, Ltd., will send a clear message to the Ca-

nadian Government about the importance of the North Fork Valley to the United States. Apparently, the Federal designation of the North Fork of the Flathead River as a wild and scenic river was not enough to convince British Columbia officials for our concern of the Flathead River in Glacier Park. The Canadian Government cannot ignore the creation of a wilderness 5 miles from proposed Cabin Creek Mine.

Adding wilderness protection to the North End will also protect Glacier National Park, the most threatened of all national parks.

Another reason for wilderness is that people in the North Burnt Fork Basin do not want to see the North End leased for oil or gas and would like it protected. North Forkers would like it left the way it is, which means wilderness designation. Public opinion favors North Fork as a wilderness, the North End.

The North Fork Preservation Association supports alternative W, especially the addition of 50,000 acres of Swan Crest. The wilderness system for means of protecting our last few wild places. Thank you.

[The statements submitted by Mr. Frederick follow:]

Tom E. Owen
Whale Buttes Road
Polebridge, MT 59928

June 30, 1985

To the Public Lands Subcommitee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Commitee:

I live in the North Fork Valley of the Flathead River in Northwestern Montana. I support "Alternative W" which keeps 2.2 million acres of National Forest land roadless.

The Flathead National Forest has 3,000 miles of open roads, thereby accessing 80 percent of the potentialy roadable forest to motorized vehicles. Under the preferred alternative of the forest plan, 3,000 more miles would be added. Where will these roads lead? Into clear cuts?

The Forest Service proposes to "improve" grizzly habitat in the North End of the Flathead National Forest. This area already has the highest concentration of grizzlies in the lower 48 states. Why try to improve what is already good by logging?

Trail Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Flathead River, is closed to fishing to protect its' value as a major spawning creek. What will be its' value if the forest plan goes into effect, timber is harvested in the North End, and the sediment loads in the creek increase dramatically? The same is true with other drainages in the North Fork Valley. Creeks are closed to fishing to protect their spawning value, but timber harvesting is being planned.

Tourists come to the Flathead Valley to see and use their forest with its' wilderness quality lands and wildlife. They don't come to see massive clear cuts and slash piles. We need more wilderness lands protected for the people that come after us. We already have enough roads.

Tom E. Owen

R.Yanishevsky
Whale Buttes Road
Polebridge, Mt. 59928
1 July, 1983

To The Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am a resident of the North Fork of the Flathead River Valley. I believe alternative "W" would offer the best protection and management of our wildlands.

In particular, I am familiar with the value of the "North End area", for its' unique (e.g., largely unexplored limestone caves) and scenic attributes, its' opportunity for solitude, and its' unparalleled offering of prime wildlife habitat. The North End supports the densest population of grizzly bears in the lower 48; which follows, it offers prime habitat for a plethora of other wildlife species. I do not understand the logic of the agency that proposes to "improve" that habitat, which is already prime. The natural cycle of events includes a pattern of fat years and lean years for the various components of an ecosystem. That includes beetles: beetles for pine trees, beetles for larch trees, beetles for spruce trees; it includes dead trees, mature trees, "overmature" trees; it includes dense cover, burned areas, and so on. Granted, there are instances where man has "improved" habitat. But that has usually occurred only after manipulation and consequent damage of the system by man in the first place. It is remarkable the grizzlies are doing so well after being pushed as far north as they can go in these contiguous United States. They don't like us. Why can't we accept that what they need from us is to be left alone? The same goes for the misanthropic wolf. Do not road the area,

log it, attract more people by easier access. The present roads already access 80% of the potentially roadable forest. How many times can we keep making the same foolishly human mistakes? There are not many more opportunities to do so, I am sure. We are literally up against the edge--the edge of our national border. Leave it be.

Finally, protection of our wildlands makes good economic sense. Tourism is big business. Areas in which to hike, fish, and hunt, areas of solitude and primeval beauty are a dwindling, non-renewable resource.

Rosalind Yanishevsky, Ph.D.

DOUGLAS H. CHADWICK
BOX 175
HELENA, MONTANA 59624

Testimony For Wilderness:

If we could preserve and protect just one area in Montana, ... we would be shortsighted and foolish. I can think of three areas, at the minimum, which richly merit wilderness status in order to ensure that their scenic, recreational, and biological values will be passed on intact to future Americans. These are: The Swan Crest, Deep Creek and adjoining portions of the Rocky Mountain Front, and the Tuchuck-Hefty (North End) landscapes of the North Fork of the Flathead River.

The most important and most efficient method available to us for conserving vital, interacting wildlife communities - the wildlife for which Montana is renowned - is to establish complete wilderness ecosystems. Not partial ones with artificial borders. Not chopped-up ones. Not ones that are <u>almost</u> good enough. In the Scapegoat-Bob Marshall-Great Bear-Glacier Park wildland complex, we have the makings of a biosphere reserve equal to the best of Africa, Asia, or South America. It is a homeland for animal populations of global significance, from wolves and grizzlies to bald eagles and westslope cutthroat trout. Certainly, it is the prime representative of wild America left in the lower 48 states. And it is <u>almost</u> good enough.

Now is our chance to make it truly good enough, to make it right. The wolves will need the Tuchuck-Hefty area as well as Glacier Park if they are to come back from near extinction in northern Montana. The grizzly will need Deep Creek and the rest of the Rocky Mountain Front, and they will need the Swan Crest, as well as Tuchuck-Hefty if we are serious about keeping our state animal at a viable population level. Ask any biologist. These three potential additions, already part of the real, working, existing grizzly ecosystem, require wilderness status very soon, lest they join the other lands - the other 98 % of the U.S. - that has no room for our strongest and most intelligent wild land mammal.

I am focusing on wildlife because I am a wildlife biologist by profession. I know there will be others to speak for the worth of these areas to hikers, campers, general tourists, and to those who directly or indirectly make a living from tourism and recreation in Montana. And I hope it will be pointed out that we do indeed stand to gain more jobs and revenue from protecting the last of the best wild lands and animals over the years to come.

My business is to point out the extreme difficulty of managing incomplete ecosystems over the very long run. It doesn't matter whether we're talking about lions and elephants or wolves and grizzlies. The ecological, behavioral, and genetic requirements of big, wide-ranging life forms are too easy to underestimate. We will save ourselves no end of problems - not to mention saving the animals themselves - if we really do it right here in the northern Rocky Mountain region. Wouldn't almost all of us favor a vital addition to, say, Africa's Serengeti Reserve so that we and our descendants could have rhinos, cheetahs, and others of the world's great beings to see and learn from? Surely we can help round out this northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem that we have gone <u>almost</u> far enough to help endure for millenia.

The Tuchuck-Hefty area, wilderness at the moment, supports the densest grizzly population yet recorded in the lower 48 states, this appears to be as dense as anyplace outside coastal Alaska as well. It is, moreover, a corridor for travel between Glacier Park and wildlands farther west. A researcher heard wolves howling in a pack just last week in Kishinena Creek, almost due east of this area. Tuchuck-Hefty appears to be the prime collection of habitats on the North Fork for elk, moose, and deer beyond the river bottomlands. Without going on through cougar and lynx, martens and wolverines, it is best just to say that this wildlife refuge could not be improved on - anywhere, anyhow. And with its other wilderness values, its caves, and its historical Indian sites, its rare plants, and its proximity to Glacier, for which it acts as a buffer zone, it overwhelmingly

qualifies as a part of Montana to be made official wilderness, for Montana, for America, and for the rest of the world. We're going to need it, you know. It is a world of 4 billion people, after all, fast approaching 5. How can anyone begin crying that we have too much wilderness, too many wildland preserves, too large a mammalian gene pool?

I could make the same arguments for the Swan Crest and the Rocky Mountain Front. But I will just say again: Let's get it right here and now, and we will have a treasure of value to the entire world community. If this sounds like rhetoric and grandstanding, let the opponents describe their view of Montana, or the rest of this planet, in the year 2983 . Do they expect people then will be glad we in 1983 said: No more, we've got all the wilderness we'll ever need; look how big the Bob Marshall is already?

Please, this is our chance. Each of the three areas I mentioned is in some respects worth a dozen small, isolated reserves somewhere else. Here, in the northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem, the sum will be magnificent, and the whole will be far greater than the sum of its parts.

Thank You For Your Attention,

Douglas H. Chadwick

To the Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I wish to focus on the North End of the Glacier View Ranger District on the Flathead National Forest. This area includes three roadless areas: Mt. Hefty (13,700 acres), Tuchuck (20,800 acres) and Thompson Seton (23,700 acres). I am most familiar with these areas as I live in the North Fork (of the Flathead River).

The North End has been undisputedly described as having the highest density of grizzly bears south of Canada and Alaska. This alone should be considered the highest priority over any other land use allocation. Federal, State and local governments have an obligation to protect threatened species as stipulated in the Endangered Species Act.

Here lies a piece of the northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem that is still intact and undisturbed. Other wildlife abounds here too: deer, elk, moose, black bear, mountain lion, wolverine, lynx, marten, wolves and perhaps even mountain caribou. How many places can boast that the same wildlife species exist today as existed before European man came to this area.

As our land base continues to shrink and our population continues to grow, our National Parks and wilderness areas are rapidly becoming overcrowded and over used. The North End is important for security and perpetuation of diverse wildlife including threatened and endangered species. I do not believe that this area has to be "managed" or "improved" by man; for nature has provided so well.

The North End Roadless Area (Mt. Hefty, Tuchuck, Thompson Seton) amounts to 63,230 acres. This is a very small area compared to the millions of acres the Forest Service manages for resource development. I support Alternative "W". This alternative provides the greatest protection for the North End.

Frank J. Vitale
Frank J. Vitale
Red Meadow Rd.
Polebridge, MT 59928

June 30, 1983

STATEMENT OF CLIFTON R. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Mr. MERRITT. Chairman Melcher, Senator Baucus, I wish to thank you for holding these important field hearings in Montana for the convenience of many interested Montana citizens. For the record, I'm Clifton Merritt. I serve as the executive director of the American Wilderness Alliance, a western-based national conservation organization.

Most of our Montana members have used and enjoyed as a wilderness the Federal wildlands under discussion here today, and as a native Montanan, I, too, am familiar with most of the areas. However, I will confine my comments largely to the national forest and the extreme western part of the State at this time and would like to submit more comprehensive comments for the record on the rest of the State within 2 weeks.

The American Wilderness Alliance joins with the Montana Wilderness Association in support of alternative W as representing the highest and best uses of the roadless areas encompassed by this proposal. Alternative W would classify as wilderness about 2.2 million acres of the best national forest wildlands, while releasing about 3 million acres of roadless areas to developments. Specifically, the key areas that fully deserve wilderness designation on the Bitterroot Forest are Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness additions, Stony Mountain, and the Blue Joint and Sapphire Wilderness study areas.

On the Flathead Forest, they are Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton and Swan Crest, including Jewel Basin. The Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, and Thompson-Seton areas are, as the previous speaker stated, critically important grizzly bear habitat. Swan Crest, also, has wilderness species, including the grizzly. On the Kootenai Forest, the main areas that should be given wilderness status are Scotchman Peaks, Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions, Trout Creek, and the Ten Lakes Wilderness study area.

Again, Scotchman Peaks, Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions and the Ten Lake areas are important to the threatened grizzly bear, and if this specie is to survive in the three areas, wilderness protection is needed.

On the Lolo Forest, the major roadless areas deserving wilderness status include Great Burn, Quigg Peak, Sheep Mountain, Cube Iron-Silcox, and the Settle Edge.

None of these areas possess significant merchantable resources, such as timber, mineral, hydro power, or other commodities that warrant development. Yet all of them have paramount wilderness values that need to be safeguarded by the 1964 Wilderness Act. They provide western Montana citizens and out-of-State visitors with much wilderness camping, sightseeing, hunting, and fishing. Outfitting and guiding is a $50 million industry in Montana, which, if the multiplier effect is used, generates well over $100 million worth of business in the State each year. This industry can continue until the end of time as long as the wilderness remains.

Since wilderness is the main resource of the outfitting and guiding business, I would also like to emphasize the importance of wil-

derness of the areas surrounding the Bob Marshall Wilderness that are of high wilderness value.

I would like to conclude by observing that a scientific study at Colorado State University in 1980 and 1981 revealed that Colorado citizens valued the 2.6 million acres of designated wilderness in their State at $1.9 billion. As a native Montanan, I mean that Montana citizens value their wilderness no less. I believe, also, that they will protect and cherish these areas as natural shrines, if only we have the wisdom now to set them aside. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Merritt follows:]

STATEMENT OF CLIFTON R. MERRITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

I am Clifton Merritt. I serve as Executive Director of the American Wilderness Alliance. The Alliance is headquartered at 4260 East Evans, Denver, Colorado 80222.

The American Wilderness Alliance is a western-based non-profit organization whose members are working to conserve the nation's decreasing wilderness, wildlife habitat and wild river resources.

I wish to thank you for holding these important field hearings in Montana for the convenience of many interested Montana citizens.

Most of our Montana members have used and enjoyed as wilderness the federal wildlands under discussion here today. As a native of Montana, I too have visited most of the roadless areas on numerous occasions, and I am familiar with their wilderness qualifications.

This statement will be largely confined to the Bitterroot, Flathead, Kootenai and Lolo national forests. I'll submit more comprehensive comments for the record on the entire state within two weeks.

The American Wilderness Alliance joins with the Montana Wilderness Association in support of Alternative "W" as representing the highest and best uses of the roadless areas encompassed by this proposal. Alternative W would classify as wilderness about 2.2 million acres of the best national forest wildlands, while releasing nearly three million acres of roadless areas to development.

Specifically, the key areas that fully deserve wilderness designation on the Bitterroot Forest are: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Additions, 48,000 acres; Stony Mountain, 98,000 acres (also on Deerlodge and Lolo forests); Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area; Sapphire Wilderness Study Area, also in Deerlodge Forest.

On the Flathead Forest, they are: Mt. Hefty, 13,700 acres; Tuchuck, 20,880 acres; Thompson-Seton, 28,700 acres; and Swan Crest, including Jewel Basin, 50,000 acres.

Mt. Hefty, Tuchuck and Thompson-Seton are major habitat of the threatened grizzly bear, close to Glacier National Park and adjoining Canadian wildlands. The best way to manage this important grizzly habitat is to assure that it will remain undeveloped and wild by granting it wilderness protection.

The Swan Crest from Columbia Mountain to Six Mile Mountain and including Jewel Basin is also the home of the grizzly, as well as the mountain goat, elk, moose and other wildlife which require essentially a wilderness environment to prosper.

On the Kootenai Forest, the main areas that should be given wildernesss status are: Scotchman Peaks, 66,000 acres; Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions, 20,000 acres; Trout Creek, 32,000 acres; and Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area.

Again, Scotchman Peaks, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions, and Ten Lakes WSA are important domain of the grizzly bear. If this species is to survive in the three areas, wilderness protection is needed.

On the Lolo Forest, the major roadless areas deserving wilderness status include: Great Burn, 91,700 acres; Quigg Peak, 64,000 acres; Sheep Mountain, 32,000 acres; Cube Iron Mountain-Mt. Silcox, 40,000 acres; and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness additions, 13,000 acres.

None of these areas possesses significant merchantable resources—timber, minerals, hydropower or other commodities—that warrant development. Yet all of them have paramount wilderness values that need to be safeguarded by the 1964 Wilderness Act. These values include undisturbed watersheds, protective forests, wilderness wildlife and primitive recreation. Most of the aforementioned areas were recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness status in 1979.

They provide western Montana citizens and out-of-state visitors with much wilderness camping, sightseeing, hunting and fishing.

Outfitting and guiding is a $50 million industry in Montana which, if the multiplier effect is used, generates well over $100 million worth of business in the state each year. This industry can continue till the end of time—as long as the wilderness remains, since wilderness is the main resource of the outfitting and guiding business.

I would also like to emphasize that the American Wilderness Alliance considers of prime importance the rounding out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Ecosystem. This includes adding the following areas to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat wildernesses: Swan Front, 110,000 acres; Monture Creek, 67,000 acres; Silver King-Falls Creek, 82,000 acres; Renshaw Mountain, 55,000 acres; Deep Creek, 45,000 acres; Teton High Peaks, 35,000 acres; and Choteau Mountain, 10,000 acres.

These roadless areas are all critically important habitat for such wilderness-dependent wildlife as bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, moose, grizzly bears, native cutthroat trout and other sensitive species. Most of the areas serve also as important wilderness access to more remote parts of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat wildernesses. These established wildernesses would lose some of their magnificence and wildlife carrying capacity if the adjoining areas I have just mentioned are developed. If the threatened grizzly is to survive in the contiguous states, it will probably be here in the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex and adjoining federal wildlands. We should do all in our power to assure that its undisturbed habitat is adequately protected.

Besides primitive recreation, wilderness protects undisturbed watersheds, habitat of sensitive and endangered wildlife, scientific and educational values, and historical resources. Wilderness designation *is* an application of multiple use.

I would like to conclude by observing that a scientific study at Colorado State University in 1980–81 revealed that Colorado citizens value the 2.6 million acres of designated wilderness in their state at $1.9 billion. As a native Montanan, I feel that Montana citizens value their wilderness no less. I believe also that they will protect and cherish these areas as natural shrines—if we only have the wisdom to set them aside now.

VICTOR, MONT. *July 4, 1983.*

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER. Please make this letter a part of the official record of the hearing you are holding in Missoula on July 5 concerning the RARE II wilderness proposals in western Montana.

I have been a resident of western Montana for over 70 years. During that time, I have seen much of our beautiful wild mountain country in this part of the state. Based on my own knowledge and much resource information from the US. Forest Service and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, here are my conclusions:

I believe you should designate as wilderness the areas mentioned in the Montana Citizens Coalition Proposal, called Alternative "W". This would give wilderness protection to a little over two million acres of outstanding undeveloped national forest lands and allow some three million acres to be developed. Alternative W does not include areas of high timber or mineral value. But the areas in Alternative W do contain high scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, recreational and historical values as wilderness.

Some of the key areas in western Montana that I urge you to classify under law as wilderness include: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Additions, Great Burn (Hoodoo), Quigg Peak, Stoney Mountain, Scotchman Peaks, Mt. Hefty, Tuchcuck and Thompson-Seton, Swan Crest, including Jewel Basin, Swan Front, and Monture.

The Forest Service has also recommended most of these areas for wilderness. The areas are home to much wildlife that needs wilderness for its well being: elk, moose, grizzly bear, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, cutthroat trout and many other species.

Surely, we can preserve these beautiful wild areas for present and future generations without depriving Montanans of jobs. Please classify all of these areas as wilderness.

Sincerely,

EMMELEN E. GABRIEL.

VICTOR, MONT., *July 5, 1983.*

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: We would like you to include this letter in the July 5 hearing record on Montana RARE II wilderness recommendations.

We support Alternative W to establish some two million acres of RARE II areas in the state for wilderness purposes. This represents most of the areas best suited for a wilderness classification. At the same time, it leaves for development about three million acres of undeveloped lands that have important mining, timber and other non-wilderness uses.

Among the roadless areas which we especially urge you to grant wilderness protection are Quigg Peak, Stoney Mountain, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness additions, Great Burn, Scotchman Peaks, and the northern Swan Crest.

We also ask at this time that you act favorably upon the proposal of many Montana people to protect the important roadless areas around the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. These include the Swan Front, Monture Creek, Falls Creek, Deep Creek and others.

All of these areas contain a great deal of wilderness wildlife. They provide quality hunting and fishing for Montana residents and visitors alike. They are important to our tourist trade.

So we respectfully request that you and other members of the Montana Congressional Delegation introduce legislation to protect each of these areas as parts of the National Wilderness System.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

JERRY and SHIRLEY HAYES.

Senator MELCHER. Tom Sewell, not here.
Phil Robison.

STATEMENT OF PHIL ROBISON, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. ROBISON. My name is Phil Robison, and I'm here representing myself. I regret, I'm new to the hearing process and I haven't brought copies of my testimony, but I hope my briefness will make up for my lapse.

I'm 22 years old and I have been hiking and backpacking in Montana for 16 years. I have backpacked in Crazy Mountains, Beartooth Mountains, Bob Marshall and Scapegoat areas, and both Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Other shorter hikes have covered the rest of western Montana. I'm concerned. I have seen Montana's wilderness shrink even in my lifetime. I'm not convinced that much of Montana's wild areas should be open to development. Quite the opposite is true, I feel. I consider wilderness a vast treasure. So easy to destroy and impossible to regain. I consider it only logical to preserve as much as possible now for future generations.

I realize there are profitable natural resources in many of these proposed wilderness areas. But, at present, I personally feel the existing uses of these wild lands is far more valuable than these natural resources. We can preserve these areas now and if it becomes necessary in the future, they can then be developed. Congress can always make that designation. I am confident, however, that future generations will agree with me and thank all of us for looking ahead, not just at monetary values but at the noneconomic, beautiful, the awe inspiring.

By the same token, it makes sense to me to favor soft release rather than hard. The future is something we cannot know about and irrevocable decisions should be avoided. I have grown up in the

mountains of Montana and I pray others will have the same opportunity, so, therefore, I urge you to support alternative W in the interests of myself, my family, my grandchildren and the future generations of both Montana and the entire country.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

I don't believe Jack Hooker is here. All right, that concludes this panel. I want to thank all of you. The material that you are going to submit will be made part of the record right along with your testimony today.

STATEMENT OF DON ALLEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr. ALLEN. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, I have a prepared statement which has been just picked up for the full subcommittee, and so what I will do is simply highlight some of the items in here. Also, Jay Mitchell could not make this particular hearing and so some of the comments that I will make, will incorporate some of the things he had intended to say.

For the record, my name is Don Allen. I live in Helena and am the executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association. It's a trade association with members active in all segments of the oil and gas industry, including independent operators and major companies engaged in exploration for and production of oil and gas in Montana.

In weighing which additional Federal lands within the State should or should not be added to the wilderness system, I believe it is imperative to thoroughly examine the role of petroleum in the State's present situation and, particularly, how more oil and gas exploration might benefit the citizens of the State, as well as contribute to making us all less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Then, to review the history of the oil industry, since the Montana State Fair in Helena first celebrated the first well of the swift current well in 1905 to present production of over 30 million barrels a year, the industry's expenditures and its contribution to over a third of the State's budget of the State's taxes, actually were collected in 1981–82.

I think that, Senator, I just would talk a little bit about the economics and what I think the important considerations from that standpoint should be. We believe that the oil and gas industry offers the best hope for building Montana's future, it's economic future with good paying jobs and with the least number of negative impacts on the environment. Agriculture, timber, mining, as we all know, have had their own problems and certainly the oil and gas industry is at low ebb right now. But it's eye opening to apply Montana's production tax rates to actual production from overthrust wells in Utah and Wyoming and to look at the potential contribution toward economic and energy independence that could conceivably be realized for the citizens of the counties, the State, and the country.

I will—this is enclosed in part of my testimony—but just point out because of the fact of the area we are in today, in Missoula County, for example, one of the wells, gas wells in Wyoming, its

actual production, if that kind of well could be discovered in Missoula County, would mean over $7.7 million per year to the county, at the same time over $1.1 million to the State in severance taxes just from one well, and one other example that I will just end with, the Anshutz Ranch drilled in northeastern Utah with 14 wells producing there. That field, that small field there, if such a discovery could be found in Montana's overthrust belt, and it doesn't take that large an area, and my testimony deals with a small amount of area for the tremendous exchange for the tremendous benefit back from that small area, Missoula County, $25.7 million a year, Flathead County $22.9 million a year. Lincoln County, $19.8 million a year and $11.8 million to the State in just 1 year from that kind of a field with just 14 wells producing right now in Utah.

Senator, with that, I submit the written comments which detail many of the other points that we're concerned about, about the sufficiency language being included in the bill, a need to release the lands that are unsuitable for wilderness as soon as possible, and those kinds of things that deal specifically with the wilderness question. With that, I will close at this point.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Allen follows:]

JULY 1983

STATEMENT OF THE MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

MY NAME IS DON ALLEN. I LIVE IN HELENA AND AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION, A TRADE ASSOCIATION WITH MEMBERS ACTIVE IN ALL SEGMENTS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, INCLUDING INDEPENDENT OPERATORS AND MAJOR COMPANIES ENGAGED IN EXPLORATION FOR AND PRODUCTION OF OIL AND GAS IN MONTANA.

IN WEIGHING WHICH ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LANDS WITHIN THE STATE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE ADDED TO THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM I BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO THOROUGHLY EXAMINE THE ROLE OF PETROLEUM IN THE STATE'S PRESESENT SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY HOW MORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION MIGHT BENEFIT THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING US ALL LESS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES OF ENERGY.

SINCE THE FIRST PRODUCER - A 550 FOOT SWIFT CURRENT WELL - WAS RECOGNIZED AT THE 1905 MONTANA STATE FAIR IN HELENA, FOLLOWED BY THE FIRST COMMERICAL PRODUCTION IN 1915 IN THE ELK BASIN OF CARBON COUNTY, THE INDUSTRY HAS GROWN TO AN ANNUAL OIL PRODUCTION OF OVER 30 MILLION BARRELS FROM 272 FIELDS AND MORE THAN 44 BILLION CUBIC FEET OF GAS FROM 119 GAS FIELDS IN 30 OF THE STATE'S 56 COUNTIES. THERE WERE 1,111 WELLS DRILLED IN 1981 WITH THE INDUSTRY SPENDING OVER $505 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE STATE.

AT THE PEAK OF THE 1981 ACTIVITY OVER 13,000 PERSONS (ABOUT 1 OUT OF EVERY 16 MONTANA WORKERS) WERE DIRECTLY EMPLOYED IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, WITH A PAYROLL OF OVER 250 MILLION DOLLARS.

THE INDUSTRY THAT SAME YEAR PAID IN DIRECT TAXES OVER 173 MILLION DOLLARS, OVER 1/3 OF THE TAXES COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THAT EQUALS ABOUT 217 DOLLARS FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN MONTANA.

THE DOLLARS SPENT FOR LEASING, SEISMIC, DRILLING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FLOWED INTO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS. LEASING PAYMENTS REPRESENTED WELCOME SECOND CROPS FOR FARMERS. THOSE OWNING MINERAL RIGHTS WILL

CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ROYALTY PAMENTS FROM SUCCESSFUL WELLS.

EDUCATION, A LEADING TOPIC OF CONVERSATION THESE DAYS, WAS A BIG WINNER FROM OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY IN 1981 WITH OVER 55 MILLION DOLLARS GOING DIRECTLY TO SCHOOLS VIA STATE AND FEDERAL LEASE ROYALTIES AND FEES AND COUNTY NET PROCEEDS TAXES, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 48 MILLION DOLLARS FROM STATE SCHOOL LANDS FLOWING INTO THE CLASSROOMS.

AS THE STATE AND MANY COUNTIES FACE CONTINUING SEVERE BUDGET SHORT-FALLS, EXPANDED OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND ESPECIALLY NEW PRODUCTION COULD PROVIDE VITAL ADDITIONAL REVENUES.

OIL AND GAS OFFERS THE BEST HOPE FOR BUILDING MONTANA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE WITH GOOD PAYING JOBS AND WITH THE LEAST NUMBER OF NEGATIVE IM-PACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

AGRICULTURE, TIMBER AND MINING HAVE ALL HAD THEIR OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ALONG WITH A DROP OFF IN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION DUE TO WORLD-WIDE SUPPLY, DEMAND, AND PRICE VARIANCES.

BUT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES, AT THE LEAST, OIL AND NATURAL GAS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A LARGE PART OF OUR ENERGY NEEDS. MONTANA SHOULD PLAY A BIGGER ROLE THAN IT NOW DOES.

WE STILL NEED SOME SUCCESSES IN FINDING MAJOR OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN MONTANA'S PORTION OF THE OVERTHRUST OR DISTURBED BELT.

IT IS EYE-OPENING TO APPLY MONTANA'S PRODUCTION TAX RATES TO ACTUAL PRODUCTION FROM OVERTHRUST WELLS IN UTAH AND WYOMING AND TO LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ECONOMIC AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE THAT COULD CONCEIVABLY BE REALIZED FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTIES, THE STATE AND THE COUNTRY FROM SUCH WELLS:

(SEE ATTACHED)

THESE FIGURES DEMONSTRATE THE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL BENEFITS FROM A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF ACRES.

ACRES THAT PRODUCE OIL AND GAS CAN BE PLACED IN WILDERNESS AFTER

THE OIL AND/OR GAS HAS BEEN PRODUCED. MANY AREAS NOW BEING RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS CONTAIN ROADS AND OTHER MAN-MADE IMPRINTS, WHICH LIKE THOSE CAUSED BY OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND/OR PRODUCTION CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY AND FULLY RECLAIMED.

WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY AND WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT THE IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE AND OTHER RESOURCES ARE AND CAN CONTINUE TO BE MINIMAL AND TEMPORARY.

THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IS NOT AGAINST WILDERNESS, AS SOME WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME LANDS ARE UNIQUE AND THAT OTHERS REQUIRE SPECIAL PROTECTION AND/OR MANAGEMENT.

HOWEVER, USING THE WILDERNESS, SINGLE-USE DESIGNATION IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT THE SURFACE RESOURCES. EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND POLICIES PROVIDE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT WILDLIFE AND OTHER SURFACE RESOURCES.

LANDS THAT ARE UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS SHOULD BE RELEASED PERMANENTLY FOR TRUE MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT. AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF STUDY IT IS TIME FOR BALANCED, POSITIVE DECISIONS.

BEFORE ANY EXISTING NON-WILDERNESS AREAS ARE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS OR FOR ANY OTHER USE THAT WOULD PRECLUDE SUCH EVALUATION, THE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL OF ALL SUCH AREAS SHOULD BE DETERMINED. THEN THE DECISIONS AS TO THE BEST FUTURE USE OF ANY PARTICULAR AREA CAN BE MADE ON AN OBJECTIVE AND WELL-INFORMED BASIS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SUBSURFACE AS WELL AS THE SURFACE RESOURCES.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOREST SERVICE DID AN ADEQUATE STUDY AND REVIEW OF ROADLESS AREAS IN MAKING IT'S RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THAT SUFFICIENCY LANGUAGE SHOULD STATE SUCH A VERIFICATION VERY CLEARLY.

WHILE WE AGREE THAT THE PROCESS ITSELF WAS PROPER AND THE STUDIES WERE ADEQUATE, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH ALL THE CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO NOT ALLOWING OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN SOME AREAS AND, THEREFORE, WITH

SOME OF THE RESULTANT RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS.

UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT SIGNIFICANT RESERVES OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS EXIST UNDERNEATH THEM SOME OF THE AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN TO EXPLORATION.

ANOTHER CONCERN WE HAVE IS THE LARGE AMOUNT OF LAND SURROUNDING WILDERNESS AREAS THAT WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE FOR EXPLORATION BECAUSE OF THE REQUIRED BUFFER ZONE AROUND A WILDERNESS CLASS I AIR DESIGNATION.

WHILE A 1982 MONTANA POLL SHOWED THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF MONTANANS DID NOT WANT OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN WILDERNESS AREAS, IT ALSO REVEALED THAT 60% APPROVE OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY IN AREAS ADJACENT TO WILDERNESS.

AS STATED EARLIER WE BELIEVE THERE ARE SPECIAL AREAS THAT DESERVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUCH POSSIBLE AREAS. LIKEWISE, WE WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU FURTHER ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SURE THAT VALUABLE OIL AND GAS RESOURCES ARE NOT LOST.

THANK YOU SENATOR MELCHER, OTHER MEMBERS OF MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THESE COMMENTS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Don L. Allen

DON L. ALLEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

APPLYING EXAMPLE UTAH AND WYOMING OVERTHRUST BELT OIL & GAS FIELD PRODUCTIONS

TO MONTANA STATE AND COUNTY TAX CALCULATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF UNDERSTANDING POTENTIAL

* Examples given are intended to give an approximate idea on a first-year basis using current data of what kind of revenues might be realized by the state and some sample Western Montana counties via the net proceeds tax if a good find were made in oil or gas. The daily average figures are run into annual figures. Values used are $2.00 per one-thousand cubic feet of gas (MCF) and $27 per barrel of oil. Quite a variety of circumstances would dictate the life of these wells and fields, and one could assume that high county mill levies (which are used on a countywide average below) necessarily would come down as production became a stable part of the local tax base. By the same token, oil and gas prices conceivably could go up in future years, too. One also should recall that state law provides for return of state severance taxes due to new production to counties of origin.

Whitney Canyon field near Evanston, Wyo., average 15 million CF daily gas well:
(15,000 MCF worth $30,000 times 365 days equals $10,950,000)

State gas severance tax 2.65%	= $290,175
Net proceeds value	= $7,413,150
Missoula County (261.76 mills)	= $1,940,466
Flathead County (233.06 mills)	= $1,727,709
Lincoln County (201.35 mills)	= $1,492,638
Silver Bow County (366.83 mills)	= $2,719,366
Gallatin County (262.42 mills)	= $1,945,359
Beaverhead County (212.31 mills)	= $1,573,886
Lake County (224.96 mills)	= $1,667,662

Same Wyoming field -- prolific well averaging 60 million CF of gas daily:
(60,000 MCF worth $120,000 times 365 days equals $43,800,000)

State gas severance tax 2.65%	= $1,160,700
Net proceeds value	= $29,652,600
Missoula County (261.76 mills)	= $7,761,865
Flathead County (233.06 mills)	= $6,919,434
Lincoln County (201.35 mills)	= $5,970,551
Silver Bow County (366.83 mills)	= $10,877,463
Gallatin County (262.42 mills)	= $7,781,435
Beaverhead County (212.31 mills)	= $6,295,544
Lake County (224.96 mills)	= $6,670,649

APPLYING EXAMPLE ....

Page 2

Anshutz Ranch field in northeastern Utah -- average 30 million CF daily gas well:
(30,000 MCF worth $60,000 times 365 days equals $21,900,000)

State gas severance tax 2.65%	= $580,350
Net proceeds value	= $14,826,300
Missoula County (261.76 mills)	= $3,880,932
Flathead County (233.06 mills)	= $3,455,417
Lincoln County (201.35 mills)	= $2,985,276
Silver Bow County (366.83 mills)	= $5,438,732
Gallatin County (262.42 mills)	= $3,890,718
Beaverhead County (212.31 mills)	= $3,147,772
Lake County (224.96 mills)	= $3,335,324

Utah's Anschutz Ranch East field with 14 wells producing 20,000 barrels of oil daily:
(20,000 barrels worth $540,000 times 365 days equals $197,100,000)

State oil severance tax 6%	= $11,826,000
Net proceeds value	= $98,550,000
Missoula County (261.76 mills)	= $25,796,448
Flathead County (233.06 mills)	= $22,968,063
Lincoln County (201.35 mills)	= $19,843,043
Silver Bow County (366.83 mills)	= $36,151,097
Gallatin County (262.42 mills)	= $25,861,491
Beaverhead County (212.31 mills)	= $20,923,150
Lake County (224.96 mills)	= $22,169,808

That entire Anschutz Ranch East field with its estimated reserve equivalent of 600 million barrels of oil would be worth $6.96 billion if converted entirely to the BTU equivalent of 3.48 trillion cubic feet of gas or $16.2 billion if it were entirely oil -- whatever its length of life in production.

In Montana, if one applied the gas scenario, the state 2.65% gas severance tax would earn over $184.4 million. Using the current average county mill levy in counties producing gas of 159 mills, that gas could be worth in the neighborhood of more than $1.1 billion to some county. Over a 20-year period, that would average yearly to over $9.2 million at the state level and over $55.3 million to the county.

The same Big Sky Country comparison if the huge reserve were oil would create a 6% state oil severance tax value of 891 million and a county revenue (using the current average county mill levy in counties producing oil of 123 mills) of $996.3 million. Over a 20-year period, that would average yearly to $40.5 million for the state and over $49.8 million for that county.

Senator MELCHER. Your additional material that hasn't been stated orally will become part of the record as indicated.

STATEMENT OF DR. E. F. BIRDSALL, PUBLIC LANDS COORDINATOR, CONOCO CO.

Dr. BIRDSALL. Gentleman, I'm Fred Birdsall, public lands coordinator for Conoco. We are active in a full spectrum of petroleum activities in Montana ranging from exploration through production, pipelines, refining, and marketing. We have a strong vested interest in the future of Montana. We believe it's essential that we participate in hearings providing for that future.

I would like to state at the onset that alternative W which has been represented as a compromise is not, as far as the oil industry is concerned. Neither of my colleagues have been approached on it nor the trade associations which represent us.

A case in point would be the northern end of the Whitefish Mountains, which alternative W has proposed for reinclusion into wilderness. We believe that's oil country. We think that there is evidence from seismic work, from oil seeps and modest amount of drilling that oil does, in fact, exist there and that southwest toward the Swan Range represents an extension of that corridor. That's probably oil country and, indeed, there may be oil country further west from there. You probably know that Atlantic Richfield has scheduled a well about 40 miles northwest of Kalispell. There are several further planning recommended wilderness and recommended nonwilderness units in the corridor that I described, plus that further to the west. These are part of my written testimony and in the interests of time, I won't talk about them now.

I think you understand that we make no promises to the Government nor, indeed, to our own management that there is any oil underlying these areas. Predicting oil discoveries as a matter of fact is like predicting rain or forest fires. If the right conditions for forest fires exist, there probably will be a forest fire, although we don't know where. If the meteorological conditions are correct, it will probably rain somewhere and we don't know how much nor where, and just exactly if the right geologic conditions exist, we will probably find oil, although we can't tell you how much or where. Only by drilling can a prospective area be evaluated and this is such a critical concept that I want to spend my remaining few minutes on that subject.

Last week I attended Washington congressional hearings on the Wyoming wilderness bill. Representative Weaver from Oregon made a particular point at these hearings that we should reserve some of our oil for future generations, our grandchildren. Environmentalists, it was stated, make great ancestors. However, you don't really know what's in the refrigerator until you open the door and look. What a dirty trick it would be on our grandchildren to leave them an empty refrigerator. A heritage of unexplored, uninventoried public lands is a deceptive gift at best. A much more certain energy gift is an almost limitless supply of coal and the ability to methanate it or gasify it for liquid or gaseous fuel once it becomes price competitive.

Environmentalists would have you believe that wilderness foreclosure is essential to protect the integrity of unroaded backcountry. You know, and so do they, that the odds against discovery are very high and most drilling results in dry holes. "Well," they argue, "Think what an awful thing if you found oil. What would you do then?" Obviously, you would develop it. In the absolute worst case scenario a cherrystem road to develop a location into backcountry area, and then reclaim it, could be no worse than the propsed Rattlesnake Wilderness north of Missoula. If proponents argue that the 15-mile cherrystem into that area makes no difference, then, how could a cherrystem access to develop a known discovery be more harmful? Have it one way or the other way but not both ways.

The wilderness selections you make will undoubtedly inadvertently include some lands where underlie some oil and gas. We don't know enough yet to give you meaningful geologic guidance on everywhere. I do urge you not to compromise the energy future of Montana by including those areas in wilderness which we now believe have prospective value for petroleum. My testimony will be continued in future meetings at Anaconda and Great Falls. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Birdsall follows:]

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN THE PROPOSED MONTANA WILDERNESS

Missoula, MT July 5, 1983

by Dr. E. F. Birdsall, Public Lands Coordinator, CONOCO

My name is Fred Birdsall. I am Public Lands Coordinator for Conoco. We are active in a full spectrum of petroleum activities in Montana ranging from exploration through production, pipelines, refining, and marketing. We have a strong vested interest in the future of Montana and are thus pleased to participate in hearings planning for that future.

Since today's focus is on the Northern Montana Disturbed Belt this testimony is limited to that area only. Conoco shares a common industry interest in the areas west and south of Glacier Park. Like the rest of industry we believe we understand the geology better along the Whitefish and Swan Ranges than further to the west. My lack of testimony on the western ranges is because we cannot offer persuasive technical opinion on their petroleum potential. That lack of knowledge does not imply low petroleum potential but only unknown potential. Further to the east, however, oil seeps, seismic work, and a very modest amount of drilling give positive evidence to a probable high potential along a corridor from the Canadian border near Ten Lakes southeast to the Clearwater-Monture area east of Missoula. Several further planning, recommended wilderness, and recommended non-wilderness units lie within this corridor.

In the Flathead Forest, Ten Lakes (1683), Mount Hefty (1481), Tuchuck (1482), and Thompson-Seton (1483) are without question prospectively valuable. Following that trend southeast towards Hungry Horse Reservoir the Swan addition S 1485 and Marshall-Scapegoat A 1485 should be considered prospective. Continuing southeast into the Lolo Forest we have the same geologic interest in the southwestern 1485 additions to the Marshall-Scapegoat.

You certainly understand that we make no promises to the government nor indeed to our own management that oil underlies these areas, even though we are acquiring leases now for our company. Predicting oil discoveries is like predicting rain or forest fires. If the right conditions for forest fires exist, the risk of a forest fire somewhere is high. If meteorologic conditions are favorable it will probably rain though even the experts don't know exactly where nor how much. If the right geologic conditions exist we will probably find oil though we cannot say exactly where nor how much. Only by drilling can a prospective area be evaluated. This is a critical concept and one which I would like to develop in the remaining minutes of this testimony.

Last week I attended Washington Congressional hearings on the Wyoming Wilderness Bill. Representative Weaver from Oregon made a particular point at these hearings that we should reserve some of our oil for future generations, our grandchildren. Environmentalists, it was stated, make great ancestors. However,

you don't really know what's in the refrigerator until you open the door and look. What a dirty trick it would be on our grandchildren to leave them an empty refrigerator. A heritage of unexplored and uninventoried public lands is a deceptive gift at best. A much more certain energy gift is an almost limitless supply of coal and the ability to methanate or gasify it for liquid or gaseous fuel.

The champions of no-development would have you believe that wilderness foreclosure is essential to protect the integrity of unroaded backcountry. You know, and so do they, that the odds against discovery are very high and most drilling results in dry holes. "Well," they argue, "think what an awful thing it would be if you found oil; what would you do then?" Obviously, you develop it. In the absolute worst case scenario a cherrystem road to develop a location in a backcountry area and then reclaim it could be no worse than the proposed Rattlesnake Wilderness north of Missoula. If proponents argue that the fifteen mile cherrystem into that area makes no difference, then how could a cherrystem access to develop a known discovery be more harmful? Have it one way or another, but they can't have it both ways.

The wilderness selections you make will undoubtedly inadvertently include some lands with underlying oil and gas. Quite simply we do not know enough yet to give meaningful geologic guidance to you everywhere. I do urge you not to compromise the energy future of Montana by including those areas in wilderness which we do now believe to be prospectively valuable.

Conoco has interest in the other areas on which you will hold hearings this week, and I look forward to continuance of this testimony at those future hearings.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Barbara, you're next.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA BUENTEMEIER, MONTANA WOMEN IN TIMBER

Ms. BUENTEMEIER. Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for arranging this hearing here, except that it was just a smidge too close to the Fourth of July. If it could have been held a little bit later.

My name is Barbara Buentemeier, and I'm speaking for myself and for Montana Women in Timber in the Flathead area. I was born and raised in Great Falls and I have lived in Columbia Falls since 1946. My family has loved hunting, duck hunting, big game hunting, fishing, and the out of doors, and even though that isn't my recreation, I understand it. The excitement of it and the challenge that it brings.

My son was one of those who was laid off in the timber industry a year and a half ago and had to go out of State to find a job. He found one repairing heavy equipment in North Dakota and has had a little trouble getting back on here in the Flathead. I hope not because he had to go out of State, but he's still trying.

No one loves Montana more than I do and I wouldn't want to see decisions made just for the sake of getting something resolved, but this is long past due. Speaking as an individual and for the group I represent, we urge Congress to resolve the RARE II issue immediately and agree that Montana Forest Service plans were sufficient as to their consideration of wilderness as a use, and once and for all, release the areas not identified for wilderness study. Hopefully, this won't be delayed by the impact of the 1984 elections.

I tried to edit these to get them down to 3 minutes. There is approximately, in northwestern Montana, 5 million acres of infected trees caused by one bug or another, and some may not be economical to log and others are tied up but there has to be some way to rationalize the leaving of the dead and dying trees to worthlessness as a commodity use.

No matter whether moneymaking is a dirty word or not, to some the fact remains that we need people to make the world run and right now people's economics needs are low on the totem pole of priorities. We need to reassure the blue-, black-, or gray-collared workers that their families and their future livelihoods come first and their recreational user needs are not the top priority, important as they are to us. Future generations are already being considered by making this a productive country. We need productive lands to support our population and not become more dependent on foods and user commodities from other countries.

Between the Canadian border and the city of Missoula, most of you know, we have over 3 million acres of either wilderness, proposed wilderness and that includes Glacier Park which is over a million acres in that total.

We are depending on this committee for practical decisions and a balance on lands to be included in the Montana wilderness bill. Because of comments we heard on our D.C. trip on timber and resources it makes me wonder the fairness and logic and of non-timber States voting on Montana's business when it comes to

timber and other resources. We are not endorsing the Swan Crest that's been published twice, once as 60,000 acres and a second time as a 110,000. This wilderness includes Jewel Basin and would start about 4 miles east of Columbia Falls in Bad Rock Canyon and our bordering Columbia Mountain, and run the length of the Swan to approximately Seeley Lake area.

In our view, you have to consider the economic benefits to the Flathead Valley of the merchantable timber and the moneys realized from the recreational uses that are already available to the valley residents. This new wilderness area might also hinder Anaconda Aluminum or the construction of a rereg dam at Hungry Horse. Thank you for your time and consideration of these statements.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Buentemeier follows:]

27-608 O - 84 - 21

RARE 11 Hearing
Missoula, MT
July 5, 1983

My name is Barbara Buentemeier and I'm speaking for myself and Montana Women In Timber in the Flathead area. Iwas born and raised in Great Falls and I've lived in Columbia Falls since 1946. My mom and dad were avid fishers and loved to hunt ducks and big game, but even though that isn't my recreation, I do understand the challenge of the sports and the excitement it brings.

Over a year and a half ago, due to the depressed timber industry, my son was laid off and had to go out of state to find work to pay the bills. He's repairing heavy equipment for the oil fields in North Dakota and is trying to get back on in the Flathead where his family has been living.

I was involved in the independent contracting of timber and road building for 24 years and later of the timber management side of the picture. Along with my family's love of the outdoors, I think I have a basic understanding of the sides of the story, so to speak.. the good years when we could maybe buy a piece of equipment, the bad ones when we had to borrow to keep going, the contractural red tape, and environmental concerns that affect everyone's jobs.

No one loves Montana more than I do... and I wouldn't want to see decisions made just for the sake of getting something resolved but the stalmating and the time it's taken to end RARE 11 is bordering on ridiculous.

If our delegation had followed through two years ago with the suggestion of the Bill that was needed, today the Calif. 9th Circuit Court decision wouldn't have any bearing on Montana because Montana would have a Bill !

Speaking as an individual and for the group I represent, we urge Congress to resolve the RARE 11 issue immediately and agree that Montana Forest Service Plans were sufficient as to their consideration of wilderness as a use and once and for all release the areas not identified for wilderness study. Delaying action on this will only stop it in it's tracks because of the upcoming campaigning for the 1984 elections. The lame duck sessions are the only time anything is passed in a hurry it seems and it's become more apparent that no bills should be allowed to be voted on during that session.

There are approximately 5 million acres in NW Montana of infected trees caused from 8 or so species of winged and crawler insects and diseases of one kind or another. Some areas may not be economical to log, other areas are tied up in RARE 11 but there has to be some way to rationalize the leaving of the dead and dying trees to worthlessness.

No matter whether money-making is a dirty word or not to some minds, the fact remains that we need people to make the world run and right now people's economic needs are low on the totem pole of priorities. We need to reassure the blue, black or grey collared worker that their families and their future livlihoods come first and their recreational user needs are not the top priority, important as they are to us. Future generations are already being considered by making this a productive country. We need productive lands to support our population and not become more dependent on foods and user commodities from other countries.

Between the Canadian border and the city of Missoula, Northwest Montana has over 3 million acres of wilderness, proposed wilderness and includes Glacier Park with over 1 million in that total. We're depending on the Committee for practical decisions on lands to be included in the Montana Wilderness Bill. Not because, as we were told, that more wilderness would be needed to replace the areas that got worn out from overuse; or because easteners want the west to have the wildernesses because we have the trees. Two retired D.C. residents who live several blocks from Capitol Hill said that they have ridden the train through our wilderness and that wildernesses would be nice to drive their campers into. It makes me wonder at the logic of letting non-timber states vote on Montana's business when it comes to timber and/or resources. At times you begin to feel penalized for living in a state with so much to offer. We are not endorsing the Swan Crest or Front, that has been published to be from about 60,000 acres to 110,000 acres in the last article on June 29th. This wilderness would include the Jewel Basin Hiking Area that is about 15,000 acres and would start about 4 miles east of Columbia Falls at Badrock Canyon and run the length of the Swan Range to about Seeley Lake. In our view you have to consider the economic benefits to the Flathead valley of the merchantable timber and the monies realized from the recreational uses that are already available to the valley residents. This new wilderness area might also hinder Anaconda Aluminum or the construction of a re-reg dam at Hungry Horse. Thank you for your time and consideration of my statement....

Barbara Buentemeier
Montana Women In Timber
Northwest Chapter-Flathead Valley
2225 Dillon Rd - Col Falls MT

STATEMENT OF TED PETROFF, INTERNATIONAL UNION AND OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL NO. 400

Mr. PETROFF. My name is Ted Petroff. I was born and raised here in Missoula. Lived here all my life. I am with the International Union and Operating Engineers, Local 400. It is the feeling of our member that we have enough wilderness right now for the privileged few to play in. We don't need no more of it. We would like to have these areas turned loose, as soon as you can, for logging and industry. That is all I got to say.

Senator MELCHER. OK, thank you, Ted.

STATEMENT OF MIKE MICONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRADE ASSOCIATION (WETA)

Mr. MICONE. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, I am Mike Micone, executive director of the Western Environmental & Trade Association. WETA, as it's known, is a coalition organized for the purpose of promoting employment and economic development in a manner consistent with the reasonable protection of our physical environment. This coalition is supported by members from agriculture, labor, recreation, business, and industry, as well as individuals and other associations.

Montanans are justifiably proud of the open spaces and clean air and water that gives the quality of life in this State special dimension. We all want to maintain this quality of life, but it's essential that we evaluate the social costs of maintaining stringent programs of control. Montana's people must work in order to achieve a good quality of life, so we must be sure that employment opportunities for the people of the State are not nullified by excessive controls. A balanced approach is needed to resolve any conflicts between environmental and economic considerations.

But I think it's important that we take into consideration the plight of the 24-percent unemployed in Lincoln County, the 32 percent out of work in Mineral County, the 12 percent out of work in Silver Bow County, and another 700 workers just this past week, and the balance of the 40,000 men and women looking for work within our State.

Montana is far removed from the major market areas, and therefore, it is unrealistic to believe that our economy can prosper by a creation of another Silicon Valley or an establishment of a major automotive assembly plant.

The State of Montana's economy has been and will continue to be highly dependent on the basic resource industries: Agriculture, mining, forest products, and oil and gas. Recreational activities are becoming an increasingly important component, not only to attract tourism dollars, but to provide opportunities of relaxation for our citizens. But tourism cannot replace the primary jobs that have been lost and will continue to be lost. For every primary job that is lost in our State, it would take three to four tourism jobs to be created to replace those earnings. We feel that areas of the national forest that have significant future economic potential, should not be permanently withheld from the development, if we are to attain a level of economic stability.

In January 1979, the U.S. Forest Service provided recommendations for areas to be designated for areas of wilderness, nonwilderness, and further study. To date, this issue is yet unresolved, and public lands remain a de facto wilderness and the economy of our State is stagnant.

Wilderness areas are necessary to preserve the natural heritage of our State. However, a poll conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana last year, pointed out, regarding a question of the amount of wilderness land in Montana, that 60 percent of the people polled stated there is an adequate amount of wilderness in Montana, 25 percent favored adding more wilderness, and about 10 percent said there is too much wilderness. So those results indicated that 70 to 75 percent of the respondents believe that our State either has adequate or too much land designated as wilderness.

Our primary consideration is that the Forest Service has adequately studied the various areas and the numerous impact statements under RARE II. No further study is necessary and the nonselected areas should immediately be released for multiple use activities.

In addition, it is WETA's hope that Congress will exercise extreme caution in any further designation of wilderness areas. And we have been working with the Forest Service and we would hope, appreciate it if we continue to work with your staff in the future. Thank you, Senator.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Mike. Yes, you will have that opportunity.

STATEMENT OF ELNA DARROW, BIG FORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. DARROW. Chairman Melcher, Senator Baucus and Representative Williams. I'm appearing today on behalf of the Big Fork Chamber of Commerce in favor of wilderness designation for the Swan Front and Swan Crest. The Big Fork economy is based on the renewable resources of agriculture, natural amenities, and human creativity. Tourists, like the amenities which attract them, are a renewable resource, an important source of basic, primary income producing employment. Many of the tourists that come to the Big Fork Area and, in general, the upper Flathead Valley, are initially attracted by the scenery, and other amenities there. Many of them choose to stay and become part of the valley's economy. When they do come, they bring with them capital, business expertise, and operating knowledge they gained elsewhere. It's a gift to us in the Flathead.

According to realtors in Big Fork, when these people come, they also bring accumulated savings to buy a home. They are willing to pay 2 to 4 times as much for a home building site with a view of the Swan Front as it now is, than for a sight with a lesser view.

Clearly, beyond the value of what is on the property, there is a value inherent in what can be viewed from the property. The view of the Swan Range is preeminent in the upper Flathead Valley. It comprises the scenic element of greatest importance to the greatest number of residents and visitors. If the number of acres having

these view values were totaled, the aggregate sums would be in the tens of millions of dollars. Very important to the economy. In literal truth, the visual quality of the Swan Crest is a fundamental pillar of the economic wealth and future growth of the upper Flathead Valley.

It's precisely these scenic amenities that are responsible, also, for attracting an increasing number of entrepreneurs and small industries. Big Fork has attracted visitors for several years as a destination in itself. In the last year Big Fork has attracted, specifically, the headquarters of a health insurance firm covering five States and a commodities brokerage firm with a national clientele. We are not really so far from markets. We believe that this is merely the leading edge of a wave of new growth for the entire Flathead Valley. Given the availability of satellite communications, micro computers, and so on, the financial and services functions that used to require urban centers no longer do. You can choose to locate your brokerage firm in Big Fork and communicate with the rest of the world electronically. You can choose to settle in an area that retains the superior quality of its natural environment.

In this place, scenery has proved to be a marketable and marketed economic good. Big Fork is the jewel of western Montana as the Jewel Basin is the centerpiece of the Swan Wilderness. It's a matter of vital economic importance to keep it that way. Our economic future remains at risk so long as the wilderness status of the Swan Crest remains in doubt. We need a sustained yield of high quality visual resources for a dependable annual income.

In summary, the Big Fork Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends wilderness designation for the Swan Crest and Swan Front. The scenic and ecological integrity of the Crest and Front of the Swan Range is the fundamental underpinning of the future economic well-being of the upper Flathead Valley. We would deem it an economic calamity for the Upper Flathead Valley if Congress were to do other than designate the de facto wildlands of the Swan Crest as wilderness. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Darrow follows:]

TESTIMONY OF ELNA DARROW BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE U.S. SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, SENATOR JOHN MELCHER, CHAIRMAN

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Elna Darrow. I am testifying today as a resource economist and appearing on behalf of the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce in favor of wilderness designation for the Swan Front-Swan Crest. This position, in favor of wilderness designation, was adopted by the general membership at a recent monthly meeting.

For the record, I hold both B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics, having earned my M.A. at North Dakota State University in 1966. Subsequently, I have been employed in the state of Montana in various professional capacities by both State agencies and private industry. At present, my husband and I own and operate businesses in Bigfork,Montana.

The Bigfork economy is based upon the renewable resources of agriculture, natural amenities and human creativity. Today we are addressing the natural amenities which can be destroyed by overuse or misuse. When these amenities are gone, their economic value is lost. When we use these natural amenities <u>in place</u>, borrow them, use them in conserving, non-altering ways, their value remains to be used <u>in place</u> over and over again.

In like wise, the economy of the Bigfork area and the Upper Flathead Valley is self-renewing if we maintain our scenic surroundings and not allow them to be altered and consumed for a short term gain that takes generations to heal.

Tourists, travelers and vacationists, like the natural amenities which attract them, are a renewable resource, an important source of basic, primary, income-producing employment. Many of these tourists, initially attracted by the valley's scenery, recreational opportunities and cultural amenities, choose to stay and become part of the valley economy. When they come they bring capital, business expertise, and operating knowledge gained elsewhere. They also bring accumulated savings with which to buy homes. Values freely established in the marketplace indicate their choices. According to realtors in Bigfork, these homebuyers are willing to pay two to four times as much for a home-building site with a view of the Swan Front <u>as it now is</u> than for a site with a lesser view. In economic terms, then certain properties are invested with a view value. That is, beyond the value of what is <u>on</u> the property, there is a value inherent in what can be viewed <u>from</u> the property. The primary determinants of this view value as a component of real estate value are the visual perspectives offered by properties which overlook or front upon lakes, rivers and mountain ranges. The Flathead Valley is richly

blessed with these visual components. Of the major components, the view of the Swan Range is so preeminent in the Upper Flathead Valley that it comprises the scenic element of greatest importance to the greatest number of residents and visitors.

Indeed, it is the commanding presence of the Swan Range forming the eastern flank of the Upper Flathead Valley that gives the valley its unique character and widely reknowned scenic quality. If the number of acres having these view values were totaled, the aggregate sum would be in the tens of millions of dollars. This value is, of course, in addition to the landvalue as building sites or for agricultural production. In literal truth, the visual quality of the Swan Crest is a fundamental pillar of the economic wealth and future growth of the Upper Flathead Valley. We cannot forfeit this economic wealth by short-sighted expediency or consumptive use. It is precisely these scenic amenities which are responsible forattracting an increasing number of entrepreneurs and small industries beyond the growth which might otherwise be expected. These amenities make a strong contribution to Flathead County's continuing economic growth. National statistics show that jobs are declining in the resource-exploiting and manufacturing industries and employment opportunities are increasing in financial and other services. It is my personal observation that the Flathead Valley is participating in this national

movement. There is visible, tangible diversification of area industry and it is already evident that the greatest potential for future growth will be in non-traditional industry.

The community in which I live is a good illustration of this diversification and growth. Bigfork, a small unincorporated village located on the beautiful bay where the Swan River enters Flathead Lake, has the finest repertory theatre in the northern Rocky Mountains, five art galleries... an outdoor concert hall, several gourmet restaurants and a community art center, just for a start. It has become in itself a destination for out of state visitors, because of its combination of scenic and cultural amenities. Hiking, fishing and camping in the Jewel Basin and Swan Crest are part of the experiences available to residents and vacationists in the Upper Flathead Valley, and part of the package of amenities available in the Bigfork area.

This recital of the components of Bigfork's economic underpinnings and growth is impressive in itself, but it is not the whole story. The point of the story is that because of this package of natural and cultural amenities, Bigfork has attracted, within the past year, the headquarters of a health insurance firm covering five states, and a commodities brokerage firm with a national clientele.

We believe this is merely the leading edge of a wave of

new growth for the Flathead Valley. Given the availability of satellite communications, microcomputers and electronic data transfer, those financial and service functions which were once of necessity confined to this country's great urban centers can now be located by choice in those areas which yet retain the superior quality of their natural surroundings. Economic growth of this character can flourish and proceed apace while retaining and preserving the wilderness amenities such as the Swan Crest. It is incontrovertible that quality attracts quality. The ability of the Flathead Valley to gain more non-resource-exploitive industry and talent may well depend on the maintenance of our present high quality visual environment and natural amenities. In this place, scenery has proved to be a marketable and marketed economic good.

It is and has been the policy of the State of Montana to encourage growth in the tourist industry. We have allocated over half a million dollars of state funds annually in recent years to attract travellers and vacationists to the beauty of this state. The 1983 legislature has more than doubled that allocation for each of the next two years. Let us maintain what we're trying to attract them to.

Bigfork is the jewel of western Montana, as the Jewel Basin is the centerpiece of the Swan Wilderness. It is a matter of vital economic importance to keep it that way.

Our economic future remains at risk so long as the wilderness status of the Swan Crest remains in doubt. We cannot allow our forest to be cut once in a policy of short term expediency and content ourselves with dim hopes that it may regenerate itself in another 100 years.

Particularly in times when Congress is exerting its efforts to contain soaring federal deficits, it cannot make sense to allow the executive branch to build expensive roads to reach small amounts of inaccessible timber on steep unstable slopes subject to landslide and mass erosion, or employ exotic methods to cut irreplaceable softwoods of marginal economic value once, while forever destroying the scenic values which yield annual economic benefits for millions. The Forest Service proposal to cut the old growth timber in these areas and not regrow (or not being able to regrow) a sustained crop of timber is not a policy of "managing for timber", but a policy of planned denudation--to the detriment of the watershed as well as to the scenic base of our economy.

Although we call it the Flathead Valley, it would not be that without the Swan Range. It is the valley floor of the Flathead River, occupied by our cities and towns, from which the name is derived. But the area we look at, the place that provides the backdrop for every activity that takes place in the valley is the Swan Range. In simple fact, the Upper Flathead Valley, without the indispensible element of the

Swan Range, would no longer be a unique place--it would be a narrow strip of prairie with a river meandering through. Were the visual quality of the Swan Range to be jeopardized, or were the ecological intergrity which underlies that visual quality to be compromised, then the economy itself would be gravely threatened. We need a sustained yield of high quality visual resources for a dependable annual income.

In summary, the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends wilderness designation for the Swan Crest-Swan Front. Has there been enough study of this wilderness? Yes. The area has been studied, reviewed and studied again. Now is the time for Congress to act. The scenic and ecological integrity of the Crest and Front of the Swan Range is a fundamental underpinning of the future economic well being of the Upper Flathead Valley. That integrity cannot be disturbed without unwanted and irreversible consequences. We would deem it an economic calamity for the Upper Flathead Valley if Congress were to do other than designate de facto wildlands of the Swan Crest as wilderness.

This testimony reflects a collaboration with my husband and business partner, George Darrow. However, as principal author, I assume full responsibility for the correctness of the data and validity of conclusions reached.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, that concludes this panel.

STATEMENT OF LARRY STURM, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. STURM. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Williams. About 4 years ago I testified on behalf of the forest products industry at a wilderness hearing conducted by Congressman Williams right here in Missoula. With all due respect, Congressman, I sincerely hope that the outcome of this hearing favors the forest products industry a little more than the outcome of the last hearing.

In the brief time that I have been alotted to speak, I can only touch on the adverse affects that the locking up of available saw timber will have on the State of Montana.

First, there will be a need for you gentleman to make tough decisions based on the impacts to housing, inflation, employment, and the general economy of this State. These decisions will have to be made by putting the emotions aside and carefully considering the facts.

For the housing industry and new homebuyers and consumers of wood and paper products, a diminished timber supply will mean higher home prices, more inflation and wood products shortages.

For the forest products industry, and all the communities and the businesses and workers that depend on national forest timber, a shortage of saw timber will be a serious problem. It can only serve to erode the economy of this area and cut into the livelihoods of hundreds of families. An example of this is that from 1975 or 1979, excuse me, until the year 2020, the demand for wood and wood products is expected to double. So during only the first 6 years of that period, until 1985, a loss of 1 billion board feet of national forest timber would result in a net loss of 9,000 jobs directly related to forest products and another 18,000 jobs indirectly related, for a total of 27,000 jobs, and in possibly the next 3 years—2 years.

Therefore, setting aside wilderness areas which include harvestable timber can only cause higher prices and shortages for wood products consumers everywhere, as well as unnecessary unemployment for Montanans. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF RON J. JOHNSON, LOUISIANA-PACIFIC MILL

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Senators Melcher and Baucus and Representative Williams. I came here to represent Louisiana Pacific, but I think I will represent myself rather than the corporation. I guess you could say I'm representing my family and the friends and many people that I work with when I'm asking you to try and resolve this RARE II, get the sufficiency language and the release language needed to get these RARE II areas under multiple use concept wherever possible. We have a great deal of wilderness at this time, and I can't believe that we have to have any more ground locked up.

Being from the Flathead area, I have lived there for about 14 years now—I came from north Idaho originally—I have been involved in the timber industry for over 20 years, and I have covered

a lot of ground, and I really can't believe that we need any more Bob Marshalls or Great Bears. We have the Glacier National Park. We certainly don't need a Swan Crest. I guess I would like to say I spend a lot of time out in the brush recreating, hiking, picking berriers, hunting, fishing, just traveling. I snowcat, I ride trailbike. In the wilderness, you can't use that equipment. I guess that's about all I have to say. Thanks for the opportunity.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Ron.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS D. LOCKHART, PRESIDENT, FLATHEAD SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Mr. LOCKHART. Thank you, Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Williams. I'm Dennis Lockhart, president of the Flathead Snowmobile Association. I was born, raised, lived and worked in the Flathead Valley. I'm employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a rural letter carrier. We also believe that the RARE II studies were legally sufficient in Montana and that the land not already in wilderness should be released for multiple use.

I would like to talk about one area in particular, which comes close to the hearts of the people in the Flathead. The Swan Crest proposed wilderness. We snowmobile in that area extensively. We take our families to the Otila Basin and to the top of Hash Mountain. From the top of Hash Mountain we can overlook the valley floor from Flathead to Big Mountain. It's a beautiful sight on a clear day or to be above the clouds and fog on a cloudy one with only the greatness of the mountain tops showing. We snowmobile in, ice fish, and have a hotdog roast and play in the acres of powdered snow. Some of our members are too young or too old to snowshoe into the areas to fish, but on snowmobiles we can be there in a few minutes. We have been snowmobiling in the Swan Crest for 10 years and many of the club members since 1969.

We have been taking visitors from the area, from other parts of Montana, out of State and many friends from Canada. It would be a great loss to all of us to have this area locked up or us locked out. We were locked out of the Great Bear Wilderness but thanks to Senator Melcher, we were given a corridor to snowmobile in. Also, there is another area which I snowmobile in which is called the Ten Lakes area. We have a groomer that is run by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks which grooms the Graves Creek Road twice a year to the boundary of the Ten Lakes area. We believe that it is unethical for us to be locked out of more and more areas. As we now have the problem of the Big Mountain, going down the back side will shut off part of the North Fork to us. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Dennis.

STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE DEVENY, HELENA, MONT.

Ms. DEVENY. Senator Melcher, my name is Christine Deveny, and I reside in Helena, Mont. As an avid outdoors enthusiast and a Montana native, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Montana congressional delegation regarding the management plans for Montana's wilderness.

In general, I wish to be placed on the record as a supporter of the Montana conservationist's proposal alternative W. This propos-

al calls for wilderness designation of 2.2 million acres of now roadless lands, and for the release of nearly 3 million acres for alternative management. I feel these 3 million acres, not now endorsed as wilderness, should be placed under soft release and managed through the local Forest Service planning process.

Use of this method will help to insure that all interests and multiple uses of these areas, including wilderness, are included in the planning process. Only under the acceptance of the alternative W proposal, can I support any sufficiency legislation for rare II areas.

More specifically, in the Lolo National Forest, I advocate wilderness designation for the Cube Iron Mountain-Mount Silcox area, immediately north of Thompson Falls in the southeastern Cabinet Mountain Range. This beautiful lake-filled high mountain area in Thompson Falls' backyard is one of the few remaining roadless areas in the southeastern Cabinets. The area receives much use from hikers, backpackers, anglers, hunters, outfitters and outdoor recreationists. As well, it is undisturbed habitat for grizzly and black bear, mountain sheep and goats, elk, deer and other nongame species. The terrain in this area is extremely steep and, therefore, unsuitable for logging activity. The country surrounding the Cube Iron-Silcox location has been heavy scarred by large clear-cuts and numerous roads. These clearcuts, many of which are 15 to 20 years old, have not revegetated, exemplifying the problems and damage that can occur from harvesting timber from these steep mountain terrains.

Past Forest Service management practices, present recreational use and the future potential for the tourism industry and the outdoor recreation opportunities for Montana and the community of Thompson Falls from this special area, prove that the best management decision for the Cube Iron-Silcox country will be wilderness designation.

I ask the Montana congressional delegation to consider this wilderness proposal, and I thank you for considering my testimony.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Chris.

STATEMENT OF ROY BURKHART, SWAN VALLEY, MONT.

Mr. BURKHART. Yeah. I would like to read a short letter that I put together. It's kind of an overall idea and then I would like to cover some points that people have raised here and there. In looking outside, many beautiful areas further East and West, because of density of population or development I say the Rocky Mountain and adjacent deserts and plains, East and West, for hundreds of miles, and North and South, border-to-border, is a wild and natural land and the ultimate character of most of that land is still wild.

For myself, I would say it has seen slight development and some areas have seen quite a bit of development. I think this area should be incorporated as a large wild zone and protected. And areas that are open to development should be perhaps considered in a context of an overall wild zone and open to development on the level of wilderness and development, instead of 90-percent development and 10-percent wilderness or whatever they might have in this country.

Some of the reasons in my faith in a large wild area in the West have to do with the legend of freedom of America and its heritage

which is still living in these wildlands that show its characteristics. The spiritual heritage of this land and her native American Indians is well documented, yet largely ignored by white men in their rush for personal gain or modern meaning.

At the physical or biological level for the biocommunity, the destruction of our wildlands, the pollution of water and air and men's intrusion into the bioshpere is appalling to men from all and many differing, varying walks of life. Many have expressed desire toward conservation and preservation.

I feel men are responsible for their actions. And I feel that the pretending or the ignorance or the confusion won't change anything in the long run. Men must take responsibility for their action, and this speaks in relation to the development and destruction I have seen over large parts of the West in my time of living here, which was my whole life. Private enterprise, an idea, should exist on private lands, not public. Now, that isn't a hard core idea; that is just an idea that people should consider. The history, social and physical of this land, existed for untold ages. That's the biological and the social communities before our laws and customs came into this land. I say as a unit, spiritual or biolgoical, the Earth has rights stronger and more compelling than any political franchise, social group, individual or their needs. And some of these are the reasons I feel we could, some way, legislate an overall wild zone in the West that would serve the function the national forests have failed to do.

They say mutliple use came in about the sixties. I don't know what they originally started the forests for, but multiple use is basically, from my point of view, in areas where I have seen it function, basically destruction and it isn't preserving the wild character of the lands which is what I understood was some of the response of the national forest. That covers some of that general talk on that kind of idea.

I see right now in the West a major thrust of development over the last 10 years by gas and oil companies and mineral exploration which was largely nonexistent in the West, and I'm talking about having lived in Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Montana, and Idaho. This trend for total development has become very strong and now you see gas and oil leasing, land sales, speculation, and overall thrust into hydro leasing from what I understand might be up to 600 small independent cites in a national forest. The timber has shifted from whatever God intended to intensive management and a lot of things that I feel aren't truly—I don't know how to finish that comment.

One of the major comments I have about the use of the West has to do with dirt roads. I noticed when I was young a person could see 150 miles perhaps, and in a lot of country I lived in out in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado, you might be 100 miles between roads in the sixties, and during the late sixties and seventies, you come to see roads everywhere. Now, these dirt roads are adding an awful lot of dust to our environment. The visibility probably has dropped to maybe 40 miles in a lot of places largely due to dust.

This coal mine business that's developing out in the eastern plains, I would like to address that briefly. Now, I'm against it. I'm

against coal-fired plants. Having lived near some coal-fired plants in Utah and Colorado I could see the visual pollution and the lack of visibility 200 miles away you could see coming from one coal-fired mine. Now, I understand they have long range plans to put thirty of them in the corner of Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana. I'm against this and I'm against the ones they have now. Federal land sales I'm against. Another problem that would fit in with the dust is the plowing up of range, either for farming or ranching. Out in the West I feel the range is the ultimate—Well, to get this idea of perspective, the idea I had for a Rocky Mountain wild zone, would be a wild zone and stepping out of that, you would have ranch zones which are very mild usage and the character of the land would still be natural, then you would have farmng zones where mono crop and urban activities have disrupted the natural part of the land and then, of course, further East you would have urban and industrial centers. Now, so far as Montana, how that would relate to that, is I don't see any reason why we should plow up Montana when we have already plowed up so much of the other parts of the country, and I would like to see a strong range law in Montana that would protect at least a significant amount of the range that they have in this part of the West.

I had quite a few other ideas. Let me glance briefly to see if I missed anything.

Senator MELCHER. Roy, would you try to keep them on wilderness?

Mr. BURKHART. As I say, in the terms of wild zone, I feel the West was a wildernesss not too long ago and the natural character of the land, while not putting a lot of the west into wilderness, would put a significant amount of it still in wilderness and large parts of it have only seen slight development so my concept is the West is a wildland right now and I don't want to see it developed and destroyed; that's why I would like to see the concept of a wild zone created and further East maybe they could have their farm and their industiral zones. I feel that addresses to wilderness, myself, because the alternate character of most of the land, if you fly over it, besides a few ranches and fences and quite a bit of logging in his northern country is still pretty darn natural. I know there is a lot of deeded land here and there and there is an awful lot of development going on, but the overall character and the character that most Westerners value is this wild character that extends from horizon-to-horizon in many places and, of course, it's been developed out of existence in some of the big cities and such.

This idea of a ski area up in Libby, I don't like that sounds of, they have ski areas. I come from Colorado and I seen what happens when the ski areas come into wild areas, put up their works and the next thing you know you have got so many moving in there, it totally changes the whole character of an area, and I don't know what kind of development they are talking up there, but it makes me pretty nervous.

The main thing that I would like to get across is the idea of trying to protect what we got out West. I know there are all sorts of different overlying Government people that are trying to do that, but somewhere, it's all lost in the shuffle, because this multiple use concept, I see as highly destructive to our wildlands in the

West and that's only been implemented in the last 10 or 15 years under the auspices of people that are probably very pro development. I don't know. I hate to talk about any of this because I know a lot of people want the development, they want the money but I, myself, don't see any reason why we couldn't keep part of our country, at least in a wild sense, more or less completely intact. If you look at the Rocky Mountains and fly out either way 400 miles from it, you could call that whole zone wild, and of course, there are places it ain't, but I think it should be looked at and protected for what it is, which is a wild area. With it's own, like I was saying, physical and biological rights, which I think overlie political rights, individual rights or any other kind of rights people develop. I repeated myself a few times, there was probably a few things I would like to talk about.

They talk about land being locked in for wilderness. Well, I find most of the countries locked out for any kind of usage but uses that go much moderner than my choice in life. I'm a person that likes to be out on my horses riding and I have almost been damn near killed four or five times trying to cross highways just because people won't even slow down for a darn horse, you know, and they say well, you are locking in a bit more wilderness and I would like to say where can you go if you don't want to be locked into this modern day and age and all the corruption and lack of spiritual awareness that seems to guide people as one of our biggest problems? I have not where to go in this country. I don't know where to go. I wish people could understand this idea better. I just don't know. I think I covered most of my points, though. Excuse me for repeating myself.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Burkhart follows:]

11 Libby Ski area.

13

I am in favor completly To The Mont Wild A. And Bob Marchal Alliance proposal for Wilderness.

I have Formulated My Plan MySelf but would not want the consideration of a Wild Zone To infringe on any Wilderness. Proposial. or cause any Wilderness To fall into a lesser States of Protection.

I offer Wild Zone To protect habitat not compromise Wilderness.

Con written in Thes

1.. Gas Oil. Lease.
I Am now Totaly against Oil development on the Front Asa AREA The natural land is undeveloped And Almost PRISTEANE.
I have SEEN oil boom hit parts of Utah Texas. Whyoming and other parts of the west The Over all disregard of anviromental protection. expressises itself in ~~excess~~ EXCESSIVE roads. ~~The Effect of~~ and other Visible and unpleasNT. Possibilities THE QUESTION OF harm on a Spiritual level of the habitat I haveNT come To conclusions.

2. hydro lease.
3. Timber MANAGMENT
4 Air Pollution.
6 DusT.
7 Coal Mines
8 Land sales
9 Protection of Natural Wostura ground Cover
10 Corridors of Wild life.

Introduction. 2

The Rocky Mountain Wild Zone.

A Region of natural habitat which would Take in The Rocky Mountains. And land 200 To 400 miles Ether way.

It Would Be Protected + Preserved As True Wild IE (Native Biological Species + habitat) and Natural Lands.

And Could be Formed From The large Blocs of Federal land in The West. This would protect The land As Forest Service Manag. under Multiple Use has Failed To do. Providing Protection To → The Natural Deserts Plains and Mountains of the West

with the protections they deserve.
IN NAMERG the Central
Rockies a Wild Zone. it would be
nice to make a much larger part
of it really wild. Remoter lands
ect. but limited Access is viable.
And retaining present level of Access
land would be Okaya
if People could GET To gether
To move out of the Few Areas or
big Wilderness in the Central Rockies
Would be Nice,

Roy Burkhart
Box 12-T
Swan Lake mt.

6 Sirs I would like it known
That I have Submitted (complicated) A
Forest Service Proposil in the Kalispel office.
For Forest Service planning Consideration
for a Rocky mt wild Region.
a Idea of this far Reaching catigory
should Recive Public Consideration
as a Option To Forest Service Alternatives
I Submitted it To Mr illi who stated
it Would Recive full early consideration
such As other Forest Proposals ~~[illegible]~~ with the
district

I Also Submitted a similar Testimony
To Melchers Kane Herring and
Plan To Submitte a more extensive

2 draft BE Fore Comment Deadline

July 20.

My Main Reason For Such Far Reaching Action would BE To preserve The Wild + natural lands of West America but Also To Preserve [redacted]. Western Heritage. And build A Freer America.

I would like it Known My family has lived in The West For 3 or 4 generations. I Know Montana and Other western States Well Colo, Ariz., Nev., Utah, New Mex. oct As A child and Young Adult I have Observed wild habitat closly.

3. Studying and learning of extensive quality of biological and later natural + Spiritual data. And by observing closely wild habitat and its loses in America I believe action should be taken Now; while forest planning Rare Hearings, are in effect. And if people considered now a Federal Congressional Level.

Consider:

I remember The True Roadless character of much of the West and the extensive Roading that came in the 60— 70.

The Population Growth and Suburban

4 Trend of the late 60's → 70's in the West

I have seen the shrinking of wild habitat and would like to question why a nation as large as ours cannot find a way to truely preserve for all future the wild heritage than once spread from coast to coast.

Why not take a large part of the wildest and most natural land in America.? The only major wild region left. with natural habitat and preserve it now and forever as long as possible!

I feel if a "Wild Zone" was designated on the Federal lands of

5. THE WEST IN THE Rocky Mnt Region
Please-
~~Not~~ 200 TO 400 miles EAST + WEST OF
divide, many ~~[redacted]~~ of the Non
Remaining Wilder + Natural part of the
WEST would be included. (Consider) IE
the Coastal + Cascade Region AS CONTENT
but Improved Forest Service Multiple use
AND THE REST OF NATION also. where implicated

I would NAME THE Following wild categories

1. Wilderness.: True wilderness
2 Wild Zone. A Region of Natural + wild habitats
~~[redacted]~~ some th possess.
3 NAT or St Forest. or Region of Multiple use
4 Developed land Only Ranch Within Natural habitat
1 Ranch 2 Farm. 3 Urban + Industrial.

6. The wild Zone would be
a protection status that would protect
& preserve natural habitat or encourage
it's regrowth in manned regions.
Road & Population density should
be low,
Deeded land in the west could
be retained at or near present levels.
Such use on a ecological sound basis
having needed or limited Basis
would be acceptible in Wild Zone's.
Farm use would place an area out of
Wild Zoning, or should be discouraged
to preserve the plains Range habitat.
Development considering limited
to Urban Zone.
Industrial development, Gas, Oil
Strip mine, clear cuts, Excessive Roading,
Plowing (Cultivation) and other action that
alter natural habitat would be curtailed
or limited To Zoned locals.
A balanced usage of the other 70%
of the nation Acres. could & Should mix

7. Our Needs

I would state HERE development should occur first in less natural Regions of the united ST. And be Allowed only to a limited ~~extent~~ degree in the Wild Zone

Considerations To: Scarcity Else where
: National Emergency
ect.

IF ONE CONSIDERS the Regions of our Nation. and the diminished Natural habitat OF OVER most of the Nation I SAY A Wild Zone in the CENTral Rockies MAKES SENSE.

To IMPLEMENT such a plan of natural habitat, protection. now is important. Think of how much development can occur in 5 or 10 years. ~~Also~~ Many parts of the ~~West~~ ~~Have~~ ~~Lacks~~ local support West have been impacted altered already and Protection is Needed Now (Especially in South West) To Preserve our remaining wild habitat. Sirs again I urge SERIOUS Consideration of this Concept IN TOTAL and request it be made

8.

~~[illegible]~~

Public and Considered on
a public level as a option To
Forest Service Current use, or Forest
Service Planning Alternatives.

Briefly I would like us. To Consider
deeded land current levels in the plans
seems high so some Federal addition would be
NICE - such as higher ocean Population density
is important low levels are present in plains
generally II I think the existing Types and
Categories speak for themselves a general
addoption of Zone's in how much large a
part of the West is Zoned wild would
Transfer 5 mgt acres, wild To wild
deeded To deeded ranches Zone where
it now exist. Farming would Transfer.
but it would be NICE To eliminate it
generaly in wild Zone if possible.
Urban Zone might be lessened in some
areas if people were willing To pay more
industry should be kept To Base minimum
in the west. Layer regions Roads
density Especially dirt Rd are To prevalent

And I would recomend many closures if possible. Dust has become a major enviromental factor limiting visibility + possibly causeing some harm To our weather Cycles.

On A local scale Especialy in greener + more forested areas excessive dust CAUSES A visible loss of Vitality To plant Communities And in some CASES. is bad ENough To DISEASE ~~[illegible]~~ viable wild habitat.

Also WATer Quality due To excessive Roof or Fertilizer has deteriorated Many Smaller streams ARE Almost Ruined. by Reef And Many Waterways show The Moss. + Color That indicates excessive. Organic nutrients This should be improved.

Briefly
West of Mnt dry or valley ranch is
~~Should be~~ profitable To Farming Though
If locals Zoned a Vally Farm Fine.
I would Recomend Real close attention
To Organic polution of water due to
Fertilizer and Stock And recomend.
Protective Measure To Upgrade Water
Quality
East of Mnt Should have
Some Wilderness created. To Regenerate
also buffalo & Elk Sould be Re introduced
And have Some Range. so we could
have some wild Montana Buffalo in Herds!
And I would like To see Thousands
Wild Ranching Buffalo Should be encouraged
Ranching if on a light enough scale
in non destructive To Natural habitat is
And The Plain of Mnt are ideal. and
also Should be included in Wild Zone
I would like To see a balance 10% 20%
of Wilderness in Plains and Plains River corridor
Breaks Added To the plains
of Montana

27-608 O - 84 - 23

Addendum 1.

WILDERNESS: A PRISTINE area of special beauty. 10 / 20%

WILD ZONE. A REGION OF Protected NATURAL & wild habit. 20/ 10%

NATIONAL FOREST A resedue of MULTIPLE USE 20-30%

RANCH & HOME. Included low density private living areas leased graze or deeded land in wild. ZONES limited To quality ecological standards

FARM. area OF Mono Crop / natural habitat is GONE. This would Be limited To Zoned locals.

URBAN. Again limited To locals. it exists in now or even diminished in the near to Possible

INDUSTRIAL limited To Local zoning or out of wild zone

The Wild Zone

a Rocky Mt wild Zone

the wild character of the land is still self evident.
the central + Eastern plains have been plowed up
the East has little but suburbs cities and farms.
the West Coast is very urban

this leaves a large Zone which could
be called a wild Zone, containing most of large
blocks of federal lands

In a balance to the destruction of the
rest of this nations wild + Natural lands.
The Rocky Mt wild Zone could provide a
Less wild part of America for generation
if the proper action are taken now.

I would call this Wild zone a wild + natural
area but within it there could be areas for
more modern usage.

I think the important idea in the overal
protection of the ~~Rocky~~ wild + Natural continuity
that the west has still but could + best due
to developments, growth, neighborhoods, mergers and
Energy production all of which is largely shipped
out to other areas anyway

I feel our nation production would still
be massive in Energy) food, theology set with out
a destruction of the west. The cities and Urban
areas should be food + Energy complete in there
area rather than destroy other wild areas

..... To the nation read.
this is within our power

It is obvious that fortunes can, could & are being made in the development of the west. And many individual want development but when a person sees how much of the rest of the country has been defaced & destroy the last remaining natural land in the nation for any reason/ ~~else~~ appears wrong to me.

Again I would like to Emphasis the development of the rest of the nation holds plenty of potential I do not want to see the west developed as an energy colony of the East or even a replica of it, let the west be the true balance to the destruction that has occured Elsewhere.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Roy, and thank all of the panel. Have we missed any of the witnesses that were on the list?

STATEMENT OF C. B. RICH, PRESIDENT, MONTANA OUTFITTERS & GUIDE ASSOCIATION

Mr. RICH. I'm C. B. Rich, president of the Montana Outfitters & Guide Association, and I appear in support of the Bob Marshall additions. I'm a member of the Bob Marshall alliance and, in that capacity, have met many times with property owners, representatives of the timber industry and other interested people. In so doing, we feel that we have developed realistic boundaries for these additions to protect the wilderness character of the area while still leaving reasonable amounts of these areas of development. I'm sure that a large majority of the interested people agree with the boundaries we are proposing.

Of course, the Bob Marshall boundary additions are part of alternative W, and Montana Outfitters & Guides support alternative W. Members of our organization work in or near all of these areas and support their inclusion into the wilderness system. I have personally visited many of them. In the 38 years that I have been a licensed outfitter, beginning in the Custer and Gallatin Forests and later moving so that I have operated in the Lola, Flathead, and Lewis and Clark Forests, I have seen a number of these areas firsthand, and have got my information on others from people I have learned to respect who work in or near them.

The present lifestyle of people in this country is making more and more demand for wilderness. The older wilderness, such as the Bob Marshall, are in great demand and are sustaining heavy use. At the present time, there is a moratorium on established outfiting in the Bob Marshall, and the Forest Service is beginning to set up allocations for outfitters. I'm sure that you are aware that with allocations for outfitters, this will fairly well eliminate the tour-type trips that were made so popular by Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir (phonetic), Bob Marshall, the Wilderness Society, American Forestry Association and so on. As a result, it will be difficult to conduct those tour-type trips anymore. I have talked to six outfitters who work in the Bob Marshall who have had trips they applied for denied by the district ranger this year. There is absolutely no opportunity for a new outfitter to obtain a permit or hae any chance of getting started. In fact, with no opportunity to grow or develop economically sound operations, some of the established outfitters will soon be in trouble.

As you gentlemen know, I have been involved in an outfitter negotiating team working with the Forest Service at the Washington level for the past year to develop new regulations and fees for our industry nationwide. We seem to be nearing agreement. I thank you for your help at this point and hope I can continue to call on you in the future as we close in on other problems. This, too, or course, is the result of the increased demand for wilderness experiences for our Nation's public. I beg of you to support us, and then in establishing the recommendations for alternative W. I would also like to request soft release for the remaining roadless lands not currently being endorsed for wilderness so, that there can be

no—so that there can be further consideration applied. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, C. B. There is also a letter you left with me from Jack Rich that will be made part of the record right after your statement.

[The letter follows:]

RICH RECREATION,
JACK AND CINDY RICH,
Seeley Lake, Mont., July 4, 1983.

Senator MELCHER, Senator BAUCUS,
Representative WILLIAMS, Representative MARLENEE

DEAR SIRS: Please regard this as my support for the Bob Marshall Additions to be added to the Wilderness System. In the fact that I am a licensed Outfitter and make my living operating on the National Forest, I fully support "alternative W" for the Bob Marshall Additions to maintain the wilderness character of this unique area.

I further support the soft release of the remaining lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

JACK RICH.

Mr. BURKHART. Mr. Melcher, can I speak again?

Senator MELCHER. In a little bit, Roy, I will call again. Was there anybody who was on the witness list? If not, I want to remind all of you that the hearing record will be open for 2 weeks and any further testimony, any written testimony from anybody, will be made part of this record if we receive it within 2 weeks. Any one of our field offices will accept testimony or it can be sent to the subcommittee office in Washington. We have had 97 witnesses today?

Roy, I will see you in my office. It's right over there.

Mr. BURKHART. Sir, I would like to address this to the general public, if I could.

Senator MELCHER. Well, you can have the hall after we are done here. We are going to be done here in just a minute. I'm just trying to clean up here to see if there is anything left undone. All right, this concludes the hearing, but you go ahead, Roy.

[Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the hearing was recessed, to reconvene Thursday, July 7, 1983, in Anaconda, Mont.]

MONTANA WILDERNESS

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1983

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Anaconda, Mont.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Anaconda High School, Anaconda, Mont., Hon. John Melcher presiding.

Present: Senators Melcher and Baucus, and Congressmen Williams and Marlenee.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and D. Michael Harvey, chief counsel for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator MELCHER. This meeting is called to order. Good morning, we'll start this hearing today in Anaconda. We have a long witness list and I think you'll understand that we're prorating the time at 3 minutes apiece. That doesn't give any one witness very much time.

If some of you care not to use your time on a panel, too, that's fine with us because that would permit a longer statement that an individual witness might have.

The purpose of the hearing, of course, is to start the long process of sorting through all the recommendations of Montanans, to gather the views of these Montanans who know these RARE II areas, the Lee Metcalf study areas that have been proposed for wilderness.

What we're trying to do in the hearing record is to gleen from the Montana viewpoint what is the consensus of the highest and best use of the individual pieces of land suggested for wilderness.

This is just the beginning of a process which is a long process and one that involves a great number of people and involves a great number of areas. The delegation is united in calling for these hearings and asking for your viewpoints. We're also united in belief that we should be able to gain from this hearing record the necessary facts and the necessary data to draft a bill by before the end of the year and have it introduced and hopefully, have it passed next year.

We'll go as far as we can on the areas that we feel we found a consensus on here in Montana and include all those in the bill. The bill will contain, at least it's our intention that the bill contain suf-

ficiency language for those areas that are no longer being considered for wilderness. I think that's necessary.

The hearing will be twofold: It will be the oral statement given at this hearing as well as the Missoula hearing that was held the day before yesterday and the Great Falls hearing which will be held on Saturday, and all written statements that are submitted by the witnesses as additional information, and all written statements that are submitted by others who are not here to testify but who do want to get their views into the hearing.

The hearing record will remain open for 2 weeks, approximately until August 1.

We'll ask that the entire hearing record including the statments that are submitted in writing but which are not given here in the oral part of it, we'll ask that it all be printed together and that printed record be available to all those who want a copy of it. There is a place to sign up for that out in the lobby. Put your name and address on there and indicate on that list that you'd like to receive the printed record when it's available.

The printed hearing record will probably not be available, I'm guessing, until September or October. We're going to start right away. Pat Williams is here, Max Baucus. We don't know if Congressman Marlenee is expected here. It's possible that he might. Congressman Marlenee from the eastern district will, of course, be over in the Great Falls hearing on Saturday but some thought he might be here today.

[The prepared statement of Senator Melcher follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Good morning. I hope all of you enjoyed a pleasant and fruitful July 4th weekend. This is the second of three official hearings of the Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the U.S. Forest Service wilderness and nonwilderness recommendations in the State of Montana made pursuant to RARE II and the recommendations to Congress. Testimony will be received on the need for sufficiency and release legislation for these recommendations.

It is my intention upon completion of these hearings to formulate legislation with my colleagues in the Montana delegation for introduction at a later date.

We are here in the State to begin the legislative process that will decide the general uses of the national forests in Montana. The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area, and use decisions. I have not made my mind up about any of the areas and I welcome the opportunity to learn more about them.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit the oral testimony to 3 minutes. We have a timer here and the limit will be enforced. I ask that you withhold applause and comments as it will cut into the witnesses' time.

Your complete written statement will be included in the hearing record. Any additional materials, maps, et cetera, you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington. The hearing record will remain open for 2 weeks after today. You can submit a copy to my office in Montana or the subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition.

There will be a printed hearing record of all three hearings which you can obtain by filling out a self-addressed sticker at the table indicated. A copy will be sent to you in a few months.

Witnesses are asked to please hold on to your written testimony until your panel is called to the witness table.

Senator MELCHER. Senator Baucus, would you like to make an opening statement?

STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator BAUCUS. I have a few points to make. First, this is the first time in my memory that the entire delegation has met together at the same time, same place, and on the same subject. That means a lot. What it does mean is this: It indicates that we, the delegation, are trying to resolve questions as quickly as possible.

I know most people: Environmentalist, timber industry, snowmobilers, stockmen, and outfitters are looking for more predictability. People want to know, we want to know what areas in the State are going to be wilderness, what areas are not, as quickly as we possibly can so we can get on with management and stewardship of our Federal lands. It is my hope to have a statewide bill this year, a bill that addresses all of these questions.

A bill may even be passed this year. I know that's a tall order but it's a goal that we should set for ourselves in order to try to resolve all these questions. We had a good hearing 2 days ago in Missoula, about 130 people testified. Approximately the same number have signed up here today as well. I think that's an indication that people really want this thing resolved. That's where we're headed.

One word of caution: I think there's great strides in communication being made across the State where people are beginning to get together more to rationally discuss these important issues. We're much less polarized compared to where we were 2 to 3 years ago. That's very, very good. I just caution you to keep working in that direction, keep working for consensus where possible. There won't be one in every case and there shouldn't be one in every case. The more we can work on a consensus, the more we'll work as a State as a whole to determine what areas are and are not wilderness.

I appreciate John calling the hearing. I hope these kinds of hearings are precedents for the future.

Senator MELCHER. Do you have words of wisdom for us?

STATEMENT OF HON. PAT WILLIAMS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, John. Again, I want to express my appreciation to you and the Senate Committee for beginning this process of resolving the great land-use questions that started with the RARE II process.

RARE II was completed 4 years ago. Five million roadless acres were studied by the Forest Service for their various multiple-use potentials. The Forest Service, in their recommendations 4 years ago, said of those 5 million acres that about 600,000 of them were wilderness potential, about 1.3 million could be in further planning and about 3.5 million did not have wilderness potential. They recommended that those areas be put into other multiple-use categories and released for those purposes.

To date, the issue has not been resolved but now we're well on our way to doing so. I think Max is correct. There seems to be in

the first hearing in Missoula 2 days ago, to use his words, a "less-polarized" atmosphere than I have seen in the past 5 years. It seems to me that Montanans' tolerance level has increased about this issue of proper land use.

I'm not sure what has happened, but perhaps it has been these last 2 years of difficult times and recession, perhaps the timber industry and the mining industry have found that high interest rates and difficult economic policies are much more destructive to their industries than any land use that they could be required to do.

Likewise, those in the conservational communities, whatever land-use policies we come up with should not create joblessness.

In any event, it seems to me that the groups are starting to quarrel less and come together and we're frankly seeing more neighborliness than I've seen in Montana in my 5 years in the Congress and even before. That, of course, is very helpful to the delegation and I think is will move us toward a fairly quick and reasonable solution to this issue.

Thank you, John.

Senator MELCHER. To my left, far to my left in an unusual position for him, Congressman Ron Marlenee. I think he might tell us if he caught any fish.

STATEMENT OF HON. RON MARLENEE, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. MARLENEE. Thank you, Senator. You and I get along so well, too. I want to thank you, Senator, for inviting me to the hearing today.

I do share the feeling with my colleague and friend in the House, Congressman Williams, the sentiment that is coming forth from Montana and from the rest of the Nation: Let's get this RARE II question settled once and for all.

Everyone seems to be going in that direction: businessmen, sportsmen, recreationalists, and the environmentalist.

I look forward to these hearings today to provide some insight especially in the areas here for western Montana. We no doubt will try to arrive at some kind of a consensus opinion here as a delegation and these hearings should be quite useful in arriving at that decision.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator MELCHER. We have two of the professional staff members present with us from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This is Tony Bevinetto right here handing out those sheets and Mike Harvey right over there on the end of the table.

We're going to call the first panel. I hope you'll all acquaint yourselves with which panel you appear on and be ready to testify with your group. By the way, we'll probably have to run through the noon hour. We'll take turns here chairing the committee. Those of you who fall in the panel that might come up during the noon hour can expect to be called during that time.

George Ochenski, Roy Burkhart, Joan Montagne, Bill Cunningham, Don Skaar, Jerry Metcalf, Dr. Fishman, Ken Kaub, Don Stoecker. Tom Robinson replaces Ken Kaub.

George, you'll have to pick up the microphone.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE M. OCHENSKI, SOUTHERN CROSS, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. OCHENSKI. In determining whether or not there should be wilderness, per se, let us consider:

A mere 200 years ago this entire country was wilderness; now only 3½ percent of the wilderness lands remain.

To put this in perspective, bear in mind that China was effectively deforested some 2,000 years ago; India followed soon after that and even now the foothills of the great Himalaya Mountains, the highest points on the globe, and are being deforested, eroded and carried to mud deltas in the flats.

The people there suffer a declining spiral of deforestation, erosion, loss of soil fertility, diminished crop yield, hunger, disease and infant malnourishment. This in turn leads to diminished mental and physical resources with which to meet the worsening conditions.

Of course, you say, this won't happen in Montana, it's too big, there aren't enough people. It just won't happen here. Well, perhaps not in the next 50 years, but what about 100, 200, or 1,000 years from now?

Surely 200 years ago if you had shown an Indian a picture of James Watt landing in a helicopter to inspect a drilling rig high in a wilderness study area, he would have bet this total wampum stash that such a thing could not possibly happen so quickly and he would have been miraculously converted to a facsimlie of his future descendent: a fleeced Indian.

History has recorded the events that brought us to our current place in time and circumstance. You may be sure that history will likewise keep track of the outcome of decisions made here today. Even now as we wonder what happened to the herds of buffalo that once thundered across the continent, will our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren wonder what happened to the elk, the grizzly and the trout?

They strip the green branches from the trees in the Third World now, not to heat with, but to cook their meager meals on. You can be sure if the needs of the future are great enough, the wilderness will fall. No act of present legislation will stay the axes of the hungry nor the shovels of the greedy forever. But it is our responsibility, as the present tenders of this great and beautiful continent, to pass on some small semblance of what once was to those who are yet to come.

In Anaconda and in communities downstream from here, people are not experiencing the short end of the grab-and-go resource extraction cycle. Everybody likes the boom, but now we have to live, perhaps for hundreds of years, with the heavy metals' contaminant bust.

Similarly, communities across the Nation are getting their chance to experience the chemical and radioactive bust of our industrial boom of the 1940's through 1970's. Is this because we didn't know any better? We thought we did then, many still think they do now. So they say, "We have enough wilderness."

But do we? We are just beginning to live with the consequences of our bad judgments of the past.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ochenski follows:]

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN ADDITION TO VERBAL TESTIMONY BY GEORGE M. OCHENSKI, SOUTHERN CROSS, ANACONDA, MONTANA, 59711. SUBMITTED JULY 7, 1983 IN ANACONDA, MONTANA, BEFORE SEN. JOHN MELCHER.

[NOTE: (*)before individual areas indicates personal experience in the area.]

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

* 1. As a major boundary, the Welcome Creek Wilderness Addition forms a beautiful and necessary backdrop and protective watershed of Rock Creek.

* 2. The Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition forms a necessary "buffer" to the southern edge of the Mission Mountains.

* 3. As the Bitteroot Valley population continues to expand, the necessity of the Selway-Bitteroot Wilderness Addition as a buffer zone becomes increasingly obvious, and necessary.

* 4. Quigg Peak - as another important watershed area for Rock Creek, this area must receive wilderness protection.

* 5. Having spent a week in Jewel Basin, the Northern Swan Crest must definitely receive wilderness status to protect this incredible area of lakes, ridges, and abundant wildlife.

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

* 6. The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is one of the most beautiful high alpine areas in the world. In light of recent Arco exploration (exploitation) of the Stilwater Complex, the additions can only help to protect this area from degradation. Included are the N. Absaroka, Lime Creek, and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Additions.

* 7. Lionhead Mountain - truly an incredible geoplogic area as well as a magnificent refuge for bighorn sheep, a treasure trove of alpine lakes with big fish in them, this area deserves full wilderness designation.

* 8. The Crazy Mountains were revered by the Native American populations. Having been there, it is easy to see why. The classic high alpine terrain present here definitely should be preserved for future generations, both Native American and others.

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

* 9. The Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Additions are both necessary additions to this wilderness system. The Storm Lake area is, in fact, presently threatened by the sale of Anaconda Company's (ARCO) 33,500 acres bordering the wilderness. Without wilderness classification, this area lies open to the worst kinds of developmental depradations. This is a must!

* 10. I live on the edge of the Flint Creek Range, and personally enjoy these mountains very much throughout the year. I also know that there is severe mining pressure contemplated for this area, and would very strongly suggest inclusion of the Flints into the wilderness system before it is too late, and they are ravaged. Inasmuch as these mountains form an important watershed for Georgetown Lake to the south-west and the Clark Fork to the north-east, their value as

providers of clean water and abundant wildlife should not be underestimated.

* 11. The Tobacco Root Mountains are some of the most beautiful in the State. Their lakes are full of trout, and they are important watersheds for the Beaverhead, Madison, and Jefferson Rivers, all top-notch trout streams. Tourism is a continuing industry for Montana, and its rivers and majestic mountains provide the greatest lure to tourists. To protect the fisheries, their watersheds must be maintained. The importance of the Tobacco Roots in this capacity cannot be overstated.

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

* 12. The Big Hole River Watershed Protection Proposal is vital to the maintenance of the Blue Ribbon Stream classification of the Big Hole River. I have personally spent many enjoyable hours on this river and, as a trout fisherman and an ecologist, urge you to take the steps necessary to protect all of the following areas for their watershed importance in this fragile area: * North Big Hole Addition; * West Big Hole Mountains; * East Pioneer Mountains; * West Pioneer Mountains Wilderness Study Area.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

13. Although I have not personally spent time in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Additions, I have been active in the debate concerning Asarco's drilling operations there, and find the decision to let Asarco continue to fly in drilling equipment, build drilling pads, and use wilderness waters for their operations horrendous. I urge you now to include Scotchman Peaks and Trout Creek in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness system for the protection of the grizzly and elk habitat found therein.

BITTEROOT NATIONAL FOREST

* 14. As a rock climber, I urge you to include the Selway Bitteroot Wilderness Additions in the Selway-Bitteroot Wilderness system. This is one of the largest wilderness systems left in the continental United States, and is prime habitat for some of the finest trophy elk in the world.

* 15. Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Additions . See comment 9...this all applies to these tracts also. Further, these additions are prime watersheds for the Bitteroot River.

* 16. Having hiked over the Skalkaho Pass, I can assure you that the Stony Mountain area is fully responsible for incredible numbers of elk and should, without a doubt, be protected from future degradations by receiving Wilderness status.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

17. I think both of the areas under consideration for wilderness in this forest should receive that designation. They are Line Creek Plateau and Lost Water Canyon.

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

* 18. The Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Addition would be a welcome addition to the wilderness system. It provides critical elk

and deer winter range and the scenery adds greatly to the attraction of Holter Lake.

* 19. I would hate to see drilling rigs in the high alpine cirque of Mt. Baldy and thus would urge its inclusion in the wilderness system.

* 20. I feel Camas Creek deserves the protection from extensive road-building threatening it at the present time. It provides such very fine elk hunting that something needs to be done to prevent its degradation and "drive-through" use.

* 21. The Little Blackfoot Meadows provide a critical watershed for the Little Blackfoot River...this river is impacted already from extensive irrigation use and putting this acreage into Wilderness would substantially prevent future possible disastrous drawdowns on the Little Blackfoot that might result if they were logged or mined.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

* 22. The Tenderfoot-Deep Creek area along the Smith River is the largest remaining roadless area in the Little Belt Mountains. As such, and as part of the fabulous Smith River scenery, it deserves nothing less than full wilderness designation.

* 23. I have been in many of the areas that comprise the Bob Marshall Wilderness Protection Proposal and support full and uncompromised inclusion for all the areas in the Bob Marshall Wilderness system...the best in the lower 48. Specifically, the Rocky Mountain Front deserves protection against the threatening intrusion of mining activities now on-going and increasing in that area. As a buffer, these areas provide the last of the remaining habitat for the plains grizzly, and excellent habitat for an impressive population of bighorn sheep as well as elk, deer, and rivers full of fish.

* 24. Monture Creek forms yet another buffer to the Bob Marshall and provides excellent water for the Blackfoot River. It, too, deserves Wilderness status, and I hope this spectacular valley can be enjoyed by future generations as it has been by those of us who have been there.

* 25. The Swan Front is important as it protects the Bob Marshall from human over-use from the growing area to the west of the Bob. As such, its inclusion as a buffer to the Bob Marshall Wilderness system cannot be overstated. Also, it provides spectacular scenery and important watersheds to the heavily used Flathead River area.

In closing, I would again like to state that I support the entire contents of the Montana Wilderness Association's Alternative W. Any release of RARE II nonwilderness must be "soft" rather than "hard." "Soft" release is the only compromise formula that has been accepted by the entire Congress in previous state wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, etc. "Sufficiency" for the RARE II Final EIS is acceptable only if it is part of an overall statewide RARE II bill which includes wilderness protection for the priority "Alternative W" roadless areas. It is my hope that we now have the foresight to give the future as much as possible, instead of as little as we can.

Senator MELCHER. All your testimony will be in the record.
Joan Montagne.

STATEMENT OF JOAN MONTAGNE, PRESIDENT, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Ms. MONTAGNE. I wish to congratulate you all as Members of the Montana congressional delegation for holding these important hearings. It's of special significance that you are all able to be here in Anaconda on the same day.

My name is Joan Montagne. I am president of the Montana Wilderness Association and was president of the Madison/Gallatin lines when we presented the Lee Metcalf wilderness proposal to you 3 years ago. I represent a broad range of independent-minded conservationists who, as you well know, do not always agree on the way to accomplish a certain goal. I find it significant that we are united in support of alternative W.

During RARE II, 1977-79, Montana conservationists formed a broad-based Montana wilderness coalition which, in turn, prepared wilderness compromise, alternative W. This alternative was our response to the small amount of Montana wildlands which received RARE II wilderness recommendations: Only 628,000 acres of mostly high-elevation additions to existing wildernesses.

This inadequate Forest Service proposal amounted to only 11 percent of the 5.2 million acres of national forest roadless lands which ended up in the final RARE II inventory. This was the lowest percentage of recommended wilderness in the entire Western United States.

Alternative W was and is a sincere effort to find the middle ground, to achieve lasting protection of the very best of the last of your magnificent Montana wilderness heritage.

We are excited about our revised alternative because it is based on a true grass-roots effort by local people close to the land who have a special feeling for the wildland values that truly make Montana unique. These local activists, your constituents, have carefully formulated this proposal.

Alternative W gives us hope for the future, a benchmark for the special way of life we enjoy in Montana. In this briefing book are maps, photos, and descriptions of proposals for 22 new wildernesses and additions to 8 existing wilderness areas in Montana.

The other side of the equasion is release language. As part of a balanced statewide bill, our proposal calls for release of nearly 1.9 million acres of RARE II land to nonwilderness uses during the initial forest planning cycle which will extend for up to 15 years.

Please note that we are not at this time pushing recommendations on six Montana wilderness study areas: Hyalite, Middle Fork, Judith, Big Snowies, Ten Lakes, Sapphires, and Blue Joint. These areas are still in the study process and it is felt that legislative recommendations would be premature.

However, the Montana Wilderness Association is on record in support of wilderness designation for Ten Lakes, Big Snowies, and Middle Fork, Judith, all of which have been reviewed in draft studies.

The stage is now set for resolution of RARE II and we agree that the time for decision is now. Indeed, decisions will be made if those who oppose wilderness will reciprocate with the same degree of flexibility shown by conservationists.

We are pleased to present alternative W for your review and, hopefully, for your suport.

I thank you for the opportunity to present my views to you today.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Montagne follows:]

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

July 5, 1983

During RARE II (1977-1979) Montana conservationists formed a broad-based Montana Wilderness Coalition which, in turn, prepared wilderness compromise -- Alternative W. This alternative was our response to the small amount of Montana wildlands which received RARE II wilderness recommendations -- only 628,000 acres of mostly high elevation additions to existing wildernesses. This inadequate Forest Service proposal amounted to only 11% of the 5.2 million acres of national forest roadless lands which ended up in the final RARE II inventory. This was the lowest percentage of recommended wilderness in the entire western United States.

Alternative W was and is a sincere effort to find the middle ground, to achieve lasting protection of the very best of the last of our magnificent Montana Wilderness heritage. In 1979, the Montana conservation community urged protection of approximately 3.3 million acres. Since then we have gone back to the "drawing boards" with new field reviews, careful review of the existing resource. We realize that flexibility is needed if we are to ever resolve the long-standing controversy over the allocation of our wildlands.

As a result, we now find ourselves recommending a small but even more defensible 1983 version of Alternative W. We are excited about our revised alternative because it is based on a true grass roots effort by local people close to the land who have a special feeling for the wildland values that truly make Montana unique. These local activists, your constituents, have carefully formulated this proposal.

The guiding criteria for Alternative W have been the following:
(1) Each area meets and exceeds the entrance criteria for wilderness as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act;

(2) Whenever possible, boundary adjustments have been made to avoid or reduce potential conflict with planned timber sales and other forms of development;

Alternative W gives us hope for the future - a benchmark for the special way of life we enjoy in Montana. In this briefing book are maps, photos and descriptions of proposals for 22 new wildernesses and additions to 8 existing wilderness areas in Montana.

The other side of the equation is "release" language. As part of a balanced statewide bill, our proposal calls for "release" of nearly 1.9 million acres of RARE II land to nonwilderness uses during the initial forest planning cycle which will extend for up to 15 years.

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The stage is now set for resolution of RARE II and we agree that the time for decision is now. Indeed, decisions will be made if those who oppose wilderness will reciprocate with the same degree of flexibility shown by conservationists.

We are pleased to present Alternative W for your review and, hopefully, for your support.

Sincerely,

Joan Montagne
President
Montana Wilderness Association

Senator MELCHER. Bill Cunningham.

STATEMENT OF BILL CUNNINGHAM, DIRECTOR, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I'm Bill Cunningham of Helena, director for the Montana Wilderness Association.

The RARE II process was seriously biased against the wilderness resources and the courts have agreed, including the ninth circuit court. Despite these serious legal inadequacies, we have been doing everything possible to avoid litigation, to avoid appeals, but rather to seek a proper, sound, balanced legislation which will resolve legislatively, the difficult RARE II issues before us today.

Lawsuits are not the answer; appeals are not the answer. We have worked hard in a sight-specific way to look at specific timber scales where there may be problems, for example, timber sales that impact a significant part of the north Big Hole roadless areas. We believe with some proper adjustments, after an on-the-ground assessment, that we can preserve the unique Clam Valley area and still maintain a viable timber base for the Beaverhead work circle, which we are also interested in doing.

We have presented what we consider to be a balanced proposal for the enduring protection of the wilderness areas referred to by Joan Montagne.

In addition, there would be 123 RARE II areas released as part of our proposal. Looking just at three forests before us today, there would be nine new wildernesses established with additions to three existing wildrenesses provided for.

We urge you to give this alternative W very serious consideration and we are eager to supply whatever additional information you may need.

In reference to Big Hole River watershed proposal which is a focal point of our alternative in this part of Montana, we are attempting to insure the protection of the roadless headwaters of the North and West Hole areas and of the West and East Pioneers. All four of these areas have unique wildland values, high wilderness

wildlife, watershed, resource values and are deserving of permanent enduring protection which only the Wilderness Act can provide.

We are concerned about the protection of the Big Hole River, about the quality and the quantity and the timing of runoff to maintain the Big Hole River fishery a multimillion dollar industry for Montana.

The briefing booklet contains statements of congressional and agency policies which contain the facts about two important topics: No. 1, that preexisting livestock grazing shall continue in wilderness and that the regulations must be reasonable, as per the House guidelines, so that the grazing permittee has an even stronger guaranty that his permit will be protected inside wilderness than outside of wilderness.

Second, there's no relationship between the Clean Air Act and class I air quality issue and the Wilderness Act. And our briefing booklet contains documentation on both of these important issues.

We are field checking every single alternative W proposal. I have personally visited all but 2 of the 30-plus areas contained in our proposal. Yesterday we toured the Storm Lake addition to the Anaconda Pintlar and I had with me a number of the university students from around the country on this tour, which reminds me of the very important educational benefits of a wilderness which is often overlooked.

I thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Senator MELCHER. Don Skarr.

STATEMENT ON DON SKARR, HEADWATERS GROUP, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. SKARR. I'm Don Skarr from Bozeman. I'm speaking on behalf of the headwaters group of the Sierra Club.

I was talking to a rancher up on the Blackfoot River last week who owns his own small private lake. He talked at length of the nesting loons he has there and the ospreys and the bald eagles that frequent the lake. This fellow would not be labeled an environmentalist by anyone, but yet he would be the first person to shed a tear if these animals disappeared. I think that most Montanans are the same way.

Quality of life, the wildlife, the open spaces, the untouched land are what they are proud of. Maybe that's why they endure low-paying jobs and cold winters. There are many others that are proud to have been to Montana, also. The fact that the tourists of Montana spent an estimated $1 billion in 1979 tells of the importance of Montana's unspoiled streams and mountains.

One of the best ways to insure the continued influx of the tourists dollars and the pride of Montanans in Montana is to protect its wildlands through wilderness.

The headwaters group supports a statewide RARE II bill as we see the need to resolve the wilderness/nonwilderness situation. However, if the bill can include sufficiency language for Montanans, then wilderness designation must be provided for alternative W areas of which you're already familiar with. We do not support

hard release but rather we support soft release providing for future wilderness considerations as conditions change.

Referring to the alternative W areas, of particular concern to us are the Absaroka-Beartooth and North Absaroka Wilderness additions of 40 and 3,000 acres. The natural interactions and relations between plants and animals in the Yellowstone ecosystem can only be realized with a large, contiguous, protected area. This applies particularly to the grizzly. So we urge additions to the Yellowstone area.

Areas of 86,094 and 148,000 acres apply to the West Big Hole Mountains, the East and West Pioneer Mountains, respectively. These pristine mountains serve as crucial watershed and wildlife protection areas of the Big Hole River, which is a blue-ribbon trout stream.

The 60,000 acres in the Tobacco Root Mountains are represented as a last chance for an isolated mountain range that is high in wilderness value and wildlife, and yet is extremely popular among recreationists. This area needs protection before it is literally trampled to death.

Please, support these and other alternative W areas in the national forests. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Jerry Metcalf.

STATEMENT OF JERRY METCALF, MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. METCALF. Honorable Montana delegation to Congress, for the record, my name is Jerry Metcalf. I live at 201 Vawter Street in Helena. I am a member of the Montana State Legislature, House District 31, and I wish to testify in that capacity today and as a native and resident of Montana.

I'd like to call your attention to some of the actions of the last Montana legislative session because I think those actions reflect a consensus of opinion that is relevant to the question before you today, and that is: How do Montanans feel about their public lands and natural resources?

House Joint Resolution 12 was introduced opposing the Federal administration's sale of public lands in Montana. The combined Senate/House vote in favor of this resolution opposing those sales was 119 to 30.

House Joint Resolution 40 called for an interim study of the management of our State land resources, particularly State forest resources. The Senate and House passed this resolution by a vote of 136 to 7.

House Joint Resolution 36 called for an interim study of the rights of landowners and the rights of the public on public waterways and adjacent lands and passed by a combined vote of 137 to 4.

Two major bills dealing with the marketing of water out of State were defeated, while a study bill on the same subject did pass.

It was obvious, after massive public testimony, that the people of Montana want their natural resources protected, and they want us to move slowly and carefully before we opt to sell, lease, or develop these resources. The best protection, of course, is wilderness designation, a virtual guaranty that the lands, rivers, resources will

remain as is until such time as they are desperately needed for some other use.

Of course, the mandate to move slowly and cautiously certainly does not apply to those lands already agreed upon by both industry and conservationists that have recognized wilderness attributes, and as such, should be designated, recognized as wilderness, and those lands agreed upon by consensus which should be opened for nonwilderness uses.

The areas where we need to go more slowly are for those lands where the studies are not complete; where there may be oil, and gas, or mineral, or timber resources in abundance and marketable with large Government subsidies. But until such time as that is proven, those lands should remain as study areas and should be soft released when and if they are proven to have commodity production qualities enough to outweigh wilderness qualities.

Today, I wholeheartedly support the Montana Wilderness Society's alternative W proposal which is a good compromise. It creates some new wilderness areas, but it also releases much more land for nonwilderness usage.

In particular, I hope you would consider two proposed wilderness areas: The Crazy Mountains, a range of extinct volcanoes which were part of the public lands James Watt wanted to sell to the highest bidder and which our own State legislature adamantly opposed; and the Tobacco Root Mountains. Both of these ranges are in isolated areas removed from other wilderness areas. Both would make the wilderness experience available to a broader range of Montanans and out-of-State visitors. Both have the pristine qualities, the esthetic grandeur, and attributes worthy of protection.

I've been told that from some of the high peaks in these areas, one can see on a clear day up to one-fifth of the land mass of Montana.

These hearings are our last chance to do what is right for the last remaining roadless areas in Montana.

Please listen to the people and consider soft release and alternative W when you make your final recommendations on these lands. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Dr. Fishman.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT FISHMAN, DILLON, MONT.

Dr. FISHMAN. Members of the congressional delegation, I have come here from Dillon where I am a practicing physician to give my strong support for wilderness protection for as much of the Pioneers and the Big Hole as possible. My wife and I hike in one of those areas every Sunday all year round. I'm also a fly-fisherman.

It was the mountain trout streams of the Beaverhead National Forest that lured three other physicians to Dillon in the past few years. We are able to bring lecturists from medical centers as distant as Seattle to our hospital staff meetings when we offer them a day in wages of floating the Big Hole.

Dillon is a fine college town. Except for those mountains and streams, there are hundreds of similar places throughout the country which could successfully compete in attracting professional retirees.

An article in the Smithsonian magazine calls Montana the State with the best trout fishing in the Lower 48. There are 10 million trout fishermen in the United States, potential tourists in western Montana.

Logging and the road system of hundreds of miles it requires would kill our blue-ribbon trout streams. The scenic value, the elk herds, deer, and the trout could be a far greater and permanent economic value than the meager stands of timber in Beaverhead National Forest.

The Big Hole River is a natural treasure. It will remain so only as long as its important watershed, the West Pioneers, remains roadless. The West Big Hole also needs a roadless area of its own of at least 70,000 acres. The Forest Service now appears to be in partial agreement.

I applaud the Forest Service's recommendation for wilderness status for a large section, 88,000 acres of the East Pioneers.

Robert Traber, author of "Anatomy of a Murder," said in his book, "Anatomy of a Fisherman": Trout, unlike men, will not, indeed cannot live except where beauty dwells, so that any man who would catch a trout finds himself inevitably surrounded by beauty.

Trout, in other words—the same Smithsonian article states—are indicators of the quality of our environment. If we can make the Earth fit again for creatures like trout, then we make it fit again for people.

In Montana, we can substitute the phrase "keep it fit." There is no better way to do this for the areas under discussion than by bestowing wilderness status. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Tom Robinson.

STATEMENT OF TOM ROBINSON, DIRECTOR, NORTHERN ROCKIES, WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. ROBINSON. I'll be brief since I'm being squeezed in here. I am Tom Robinson. I'm northern Rockies director of the society covering three States.

As you know, Bill Cunningham used to be on staff in his position in Helena. And he's now working for what I consider to be the finest statewide conservation group in the United States.

I'd like to reiterate our support for alternative W. We feel this is a well thought and balanced start. We would also commend the delegation in facing this issue head on. However, I would like to also reiterate a note of caution, and that's that we shouldn't rush into resolutions before we have good sight-specific data on many of these areas.

In particular, I'm talking about the areas in the Montana Wilderness Study Act. I don't think we should just mop these areas in before we have the good information just to settle the whole issue.

In particular, some of the information that we do need is sight-specific data on timber productivity, and that is a problem that doesn't just exist in Montana. It exists all over the country, particularly in the State of Idaho where I live right now.

There's much support for completion areas in this whole issue, in particular, completion areas for the Bitterroots, the Mission Mountains, the Anaconda Pintlars, the Bob Marshall.

But what I'd like to do is plead for you not to overlook the remnants that are in the conservationists proposal that exist all over the State. These areas lack the coat-tail attractions that the completion areas have, but in every way, contain the same outstanding characteristics.

I think in our rush to try to solve this issue, we tend to look at these areas just like we look at people in a crowd: faceless entities lacking individuality. It's only once you get to know these areas, once you get in these areas, that they evoke any special feeling or emotion. And I think that should be very important as this issue is resolved.

I would like to close by strongly opposing any release language, and I'm speaking for the Wilderness Society once again, which differs from any previously passed statewide bills. We also oppose the Wyoming wilderness formula which was basically considered to be hard release as well, since it releases areas for approximately 30 years.

I will end right there. I just want to briefly say that we feel hard release which flies in the face of previously backed access RPA and MFNA basically do damage to these acts which people find out hard through the year to enact. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Don Stoecker.

STATEMENT OF DON STOECKER, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. STOECKER. I live at Georgetown Lake right up Anaconda here. The areas I'm concerned about are down here in the Big Hole area, the West Pioneers. I think if I understand, they want to log these areas. They would put 4 to 500 miles of road in them. The amount of logging timber they would get out of these areas would not even pay for the roads that they would put in. The roads they would put in, the erosion and so on this would cause for watershed, which is quite essential and so on, and most of our areas here are the watersheds for mainstreams and rivers. And water is a main source of life and so on for our ranchers. They depend on it for the crops and so on for irrigation.

I think the instances where it's logged, they've dried streams up, they've dried small streams and so on up like that. This is a rancher's water for cattle and so on for irrigating and they just don't have it. Therefore, how can you raise food and so on without water.

You log these areas, you go into them too much. You need this water. I mean when you disturb these areas, I mean water and so on, you just don't have it. I mean it is essential not only in this State but our water goes clear from here straight on to Mexico. We use it all the way along. This is one of the most essential things that we do have.

Forest Service, they only get 50 cents back out of every dollar that they put in. It just doesn't pay to log these areas and to go into them and disturb them in any way because our water is the most essential thing there is and we should just leave these protected areas alone.

There are other areas that we do have that aren't quite as essential that we can develop for recreation and other purposes, and so on, without really disturbing areas that we really don't get that much benefit from for development for logging and mining, that type of a thing.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all very much. That concludes our first panel.

Second panel: Garry Preston, Roger Howell, Gary Langley, Allen Shumate, Dan Carpita, Betty Livingston, Dick Webb, Vince Heier, Bob Garner.

Garry Preston.

STATEMENT OF GARRY L. PRESTON, SOUTHWEST MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. PRESTON. Thank you, Senator Melcher, Representative Williams and Representative Marlenee and Senator Baucus.

Jim Roberts could not be here today. He asked me if I could bring just a few comments on the position of labor on these hearings. The negotiations of the Anaconda Co. just resumed again.

Senator MELCHER. That would be fine.

Mr. PRESTON. In consultation with a number of labor in the Butte area, they're relatively concerned about the possibility of the wilderness area decreasing any form of employment. A lot of employment would not be union-oriented in any respects but those jobs also create other employment which is union-oriented. Therefore, they would prefer to see all of these areas remain within a multiple-use type of configuration. They believe that they have confidence that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management can operate these areas properly. And these areas will not lose their pristine configurations nor will it be any significant deterioration.

Second, many of the mining operations would be of the small miner-type, which in turn supports service industries that match the needs in labor; therefore, they would like to leave it in that area.

Then I would like to go on for myself. I represent an organizing of the Southwest Economic Association which covers this area on through east as far as Ennis and south of Dillon, north of Butte. We hold much the same feeling. We look at the natural resources as needed by this Nation both in time of peace and belligerency. We realize and know of heavy mineral deposits in a number of these areas, the possibility of other nonmetalics.

For example, in the Tobacco Root ranges lies one of the largest areas of vermiculite known in the world today and it's right within the study area above Pony, which in time would probably be used both for energy conservation and also for certain portions of agriculture.

We also look at the fact of the wage base paid by mining and the timber industry compared with tourism. Our studies in the Butte and Dillon areas showed tourism, the average cook earns a little bit over $4, and the rest of them earn just minimum wage, where

the pay scale of the present mining operation in Whitehall in 1 day would equal almost a week's wages for the service industries.

This is the money that comes into our economy which creates new jobs as well. This type of a payment, wage scale, would produce more income than the tourism area. We do rely on tourism, we believe in tourism. We think that our natural resources—I will speak of the Tobacco Root area, where I've walked all my life, when I know probably every square foot of the proposed area, I can show a number of roads, I can show several Indian graves, a number of cabins, a number of operating mines and small mines that exist in that area now.

I don't believe it's fair to any of those people to determine that this is going to be wilderness area. They are not going to distrub it, but they are making a living there. Of course, if there's no adverse impact on grazing, it's not going to hurt the others. There's a certain amount of timber industry, but it does provide an income for a lot of small miners.

I think we have to rely on the income produced by the three major industries in Montana which are mining, minerals including petroleum; timber industry and agriculture. And I think these industries can provide the base along with the protection of these areas. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Preston follows:]

Garry L. Preston
4034 Wynne Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701
Phone (406) 494-4396

Southwest Electronic 455 7 July, 1983

Senator Malcolm Wallop
Senator John Melcher
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Sirs:

On the continuing process of the U.S. Forest Service, The Bureau of Land Management on the question of wilderness under Rare II, again causing meetings on this question. The costs of the Rare II reports are preposterous as well as the time spent by so many in this process. The cost to the taxpayer is totally unwarented, as well as adding additional areas to The Wilderness Areas.

First, too much land holds natural resources needed by this nation, both in a time of peace and a time of belligerency. These resources also have meaning to the people of Montana and to put the development of our mineral reserves, which are metals non-metalics and petroleum. Allow me to put these into the economic areas.

1, Jobs — The minerals industries has been a major source of income for many over the years. While presently in a depressed time, still pays wages far in excess of many other forms of employment. When one comparing the wages from the minerals industry to that of tourism the figures are intresting. Tourism usually pays only minimum wage or not much more, offers little in insurance programs or retirement packages. Also, most of the employment in tourism is seasonal thus offering little rewards for work performed.

2, Taxes — The mineral and wood products industries contribute large sums through taxes both to local and state government. With the continual errosion of this tax base, all other industries and individuals must bear the increased burden. Montana's major source of income is derived from agriculture, the minerals industries and wood products industry and tourism as a week runner-up. To impact these industries further is counter productive to Montana's economic needs in taxes. Also, the loss of jobs add to the loss of taxes.

The three major industries in Montana rely on a major part on the exploitation of the natural resource found on public lands. Today, we have laws, regulations that assure proper use and conservation in these areas. These industries are well aware of the natural marvals of this area, its wildlife and vegitation and have and are developing means to perserve this while useing or extracting minerals and timber from these areas. Many have employed competent and specialy educated personel to assure proper use, reclamation and restoration of these areas.

Multiple use of public lands is the only way to go, economics demand this, rather than putting vast areas into limbo. Montana has now contributed more than its share to the Wilderness Plan, additional areas would be counter-productive to the people of Montana. Proper multipul use of these areas can afford access to all for grazing, mining, timber harvests and recreation without closing these areas that contribute to the economical base of our state.

Montana has been blessed with both natural beauty and natural resources, which has contributed both economicaly as well as pleasure. But due to its geographical location in the U.S., is not conducive to other industries other than agriculture the minerals industry, wood products and tourism. Transportation, lack of support industry, short capital resources and other factors offer little to new plant location. The three existing industries are our economic base, and to increase our staggering economy, the minerals industry and wood products offer the best and possibly the only hope for both the unemployed and existing businesses.

While Montana is blessed with natural beauty and resources, it is cursed with an active and vocal minority who seek to lock up the resources. This minority, with much of its financial backing from outside of Montana give little recognition to the needs of the people of this state. To the unemployed, who cannot find work they offer no solution, to the mining industry and wood products they look at as enemies, they use public funds, tax supported public radio to broadcast their views. But offer nothing to the economics of Montana. Their views are narrow selfish and unrealistic.

Also, Montana must take its part in the nation, to contribute to the needs as other states contribute. That is in supplying the needed minerals that we now import at a total cost to all citizens of our land. Montana holds resources needed in all areas of our economy from consumer products to national defense, and one might add energy. We now import from 100% to over fifty percent of some metals that could be mined in Montana. Importing costs, even though the price might be less to industry at this time. The loss of jobs, taxes from a trade deficit has and is taking its toll on not only Montanans, but the whole nation. Also, the recovery of the building trades, who supply housing, commerical buildings needs rely on a supply of lumber. Our wood products industries in Montana supply parts of this need, harvesting timber in a conscientious and highly regulated manner. Closing off large tracts of public lands produces a limited area of harvest.

If we co-operate rather than try to fullfill selfish needs, our public lands used for all is a reality. There is no one single group that can survive if it forces its views on others, nor does any single group hold the exclusive right to dictate on these matters. We see the increasing ability of both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to regulate under the multpule use program. The contribution of Wilderness is now as complete as far as Montana's economics can afford.

Yours

Garry L. Preston

Senator MELCHER. Thomas Dale.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. DALE, PRESIDENT, MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. DALE. My name is Thomas A. Dale. I'm a third generation Montanan and earn my living as a practicing mining engineer. I am employed by Pfizer, Inc., in Dillon, which is the largest industrial employer in Beaverhead County. I am also president of the Montana Mining Association and I'm a registered professional engineer in this State. I make my comments today on behalf of the mining industry in Montana.

First, it is important to state some facts about the mining industry's contribution to the State of Montana. Mining is as basic to Montana as agriculture. Because the mineral industry is a basic export industry, it generates new wealth and doesn't just circulate someone else's dollar. These new dollars are injected into Montana's economy which create additional incomes for Montanans as they are spent and respent.

Mining is not a boom and bust industry as parroted by some environmental groups and also, by some of those in Congress. Yes, it does revolve around a nonrenewable resource, but even in the case of the copper deposit in Butte, it provided a steady income into this area for over 100 years. I doubt if many food stores, barber shops, sporting goods stores, gas stations, and restaurants can boast being in business that long.

The point to be made here is that in order to keep a stable mining industry statewide, access to public lands must be assured. Mining can only occur where mineral deposits are found. It is like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack when exploring for economical mineable ore deposits.

Thousands of acres must be inspected before the proper combination of variables come together to make a producing mine, in other words, the size of deposit, freight rates, environmental restrictions, cost of money, tax structure, metallurgy, labor and so on and so on. Congress should realize the infrastructure of the mining industry well enough to allocate the remaining available public lands in Montana to multiple use.

Montana has already contributed over 16.6 percent of the lands in the present wilderness system in the Continental United States. Enough is enough. The 1964 Wilderness Act requires that a thorough mineral evaluation be done before any lands are designated as wilderness. This has not been done.

An example is in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness where 56 mining claims were included inside the boundaries of the wilderness area. Four of these were patented or deeded claims. In this case, these areas should be excluded from the wilderness area.

In Beaverhead County, Amoco Minerals Co. has discovered some molybdenum deposits in the east Pioneer Mountains. The proposed RARE II wilderness boundary includes one of the moly deposits. Again, these high potential mineral areas should never have been considered as potential wilderness areas.

The mining industry has been accused of being a special interest group. I submit to you today that anyone who drove a car, rode a

bicycle or walked to this hearing used something that was produced from a mine.

We are a very special interest group, we provide the necessities that make America what it is today: The Nation with the highest standard of living on the face of the Earth.

To lock up more public lands, to study more public lands for their wilderness potential or to not release those public lands that have been determined as nonwilderness would surely be short sighted. These public lands are needed for the natural resources they contain: Minerals, oil and gas, timber and grazing. To utilize these resources to their maximum, these lands must be designated for multiple use. All of these uses are done in an environmentally responsible manner and can't be judged with the yardstick of the past.

Protect the industries that are the backbone of Montana before you fall into the save-for-future-generations syndrome. Montana needs jobs, not more wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Allen Shumate.

STATEMENT OF ALLEN SHUMATE, PRESIDENT, WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

Mr. SHUMATE. Thank you, Senator Melcher and Congressman Williams and Congressman Marlenee. It's a privilege to be here.

For the record, my name is Allen Shumate, president of Western Environmental Trade Association, which is a unique coalition of labor, industry, agriculture, business, and recreation that is working together for a common cause: Jobs, full lunch baskets, and a clean environment.

A brief review of my background: I have lived in Helena and the Helena Valley all of my life. For the past 18 years before retirement, I was a stockbroker with D. A. Davidson, retiring with the title of vice president. Prior to that, agriculture was my main interest. I operated a purebred Holstein dairy business for 22 years, worked for 3 years as a fieldman for the Holstein Friesian Association of America in the Northwest and spent 2 years with the American Hereford Journal as a fieldman.

In 1954 I was one of the organizers and original officers of the Helena Valley Irrigation District, a Bureau of Reclamation project, which under the present laws, the project could not have been built.

The valley now has a viable agriculture base with 15,000 acres of production because of water and drainage. The farmers grow and export hay and grain. Previously, people like myself were forced to purchase our hay and grain from other sources.

Montana is rich in natural resources and I believe they should be developed consistent with sound environmental practices.

Montana has one of the highest property tax rates in the Nation. These high property taxes create a hardship, not only on senior citizens, but for young families trying to buy homes. A vigorous economy that fosters well-paying jobs and a broad tax base is necessary to provide revenue to meet Government needs.

WETA has been working with the Forest Service on RARE II studies and would like to continue to do so. We would also appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff to reach a final solution to the wilderness question.

Montana currently has 3.2 million acres of designated wilderness areas. Another 1.2 million acres is being considered for wilderness or is being studied by the Forest Service under RARE II. An additional 400,000 acres is being studied for wilderness by the Bureau of Land Management. Thus, nearly 5 million acres is being treated as de facto wilderness where multiple use is either prohibited or severely restricted.

Wilderness areas are necessary to preserve the precious natural heritage of our State. However, a Montana poll conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economics Research in March 1982 showed that 70 percent of the respondents believe that our State has either an adequate amount or too much land set aside as wilderness.

Once lands are removed from multiple use, they are seldom, if ever, made available to the majority of public lands users in Montana.

Therefore, it is WETA's hope that Congress will exercise extreme caution in any further designation of wilderness areas.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Dan Carpita.

STATEMENT OF DAN CARPITA, DILLON MONT.

Mr. CARPITA. My name is Dan Carpita. I am a small wholesaler serving Beaverhead and Madison Counties. My operation employs seven people with an annual payroll of approximately $140,000.

The area we serve is comprised of approxiamtely 9,000 square miles and has a population of approximately 13,500. Of the 9,000 square miles, the Federal Government controls some 53 percent. In Beaverhead County alone, the percentage is in excess of 57 percent. A total of 25 percent of the 9,000 square miles or 47 percent of the Federal lands are affected by RARE II.

In the 10 years from 1970 to 1980, this area experienced zero growth. It is interesting to note that this zero growth period coincides with the indecision over land use in our area, while the preceding 10 years showed a population increase of approximately 14 percent.

Our economy is based on five factors: agriculture, mining, timber, tourism, and government, all of which are impacted by the RARE process and its outcome: Wilderness.

Our agriculture is primarily comprised of the raising of beef cattle. The population in this segment has decreased in the past 10 years due to consolidation and would decreae further in the future if any grazing lands were designated as wilderness. While this is not a prohibited activity on wilderness lands, history has shown us that there is a definite loss of grazing in wilderness.

Without the release of additional lands, the future of mining in this area is predicted to be 15 to 20 years and the area would not attract any further ventures of this nature.

The loss of timber sales on the Beaverhead National Forest beyond 1985 is estimated to be 60 percent if the study areas are not

released. This forest is the primary source of Stoltze, which is the only exporting sawmill in our area.

Tourism, the primary source of which has been the Butte and Anaconda area, will be further impacted due to the additional limits placed on the types of recreation available in the area.

Under the nonmanagement policies of wilderness, the Government payroll is bound to decline.

If I were a Congressman, I know that the temptation of creating a monument would be very great, but I would rather have the satisfaction that comes from seeing the economy grow and a way of life preserved.

As a small businessman and a third generation resident of Beaverhead County, I prevail upon this committee and Congress to opt for economic growth for southwestern Montana, which can only come from multiple use of our Federal lands.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Betty Livingston.

STATEMENT OF BETTY K. LIVINGSTON, WOMEN IN TIMBER

Ms. LIVINGSTON. Thank you, Senator Melcher. It's a pleasure to be here today and to have an opportunity to talk to you.

For the record, my name is Betty Livingston. I live in Deer Lodge and I have lived there for over 20 years. I am a mother of five and my family has been raised through money from the wood products industry.

I have several reasons why I would like to see RARE II finished up, completed. Montana's ecocomy is based on natural resources and it's essential that we be able to manage our natural resources for the benefit of all.

All facets of resource use are needed: timber harvest; mining; exploration for gas, oil and minerals, and motorized recreation.

Also, the Forest Service needs to be able to go ahead with forest plans and land management so that they can manage our public lands like we pay them to do. As it is now, it would take from 2 to 5 years to catch up on all the things they are behind in. Also, the people who depend on the forest resource are in limbo as to making future plans until RARE II is resolved.

Montana already has over 5 million acres of single purpose lands. There are over 3 million acres in wilderness, over 1,181,000 acres in national parks, 1,178,000 acres in wildlife refuges, and more than 50,000 acres in primitive areas.

These lands are managed essentially as wilderness, and I believe Montana has contributed a great amount to our national wilderness system and it's time now to say stop, to use a sound mind and seek balance.

Wilderness advocates say that we must consider the economic importance of wilderness areas. Well, I don't have any idea what the economic value would be, what dead and dying timber falls are worth, but I do have statistics on what timberlands that are withdrawn for wilderness can cost Montana's citizens, Montana's counties, State, and Federal treasuries.

At the present time, there are over 6,534,410 acres considered in the RARE II process. Of these 6 million, over 3,135,019 of these

acres are classified as commercial timberland; 786 million board feet allowable annual harvest is the estimate for this land.

Each 1 million board feet harvested generates 5 direct jobs and 10 indirect jobs, statistics of Dr. Maxine Johnson, University of Montana, Missoula.

It would take 786 million board feet therefore to generate 4,000 timber-related jobs and 8,000 service-related jobs, jobs with an annual payroll of $97 million.

I think Congress should act swiftly to resolve the uncertainty for all concerned, and Congress is the only body that can do this. They must tell the American people the studies done during the RARE II process are sufficient and need not be done again and congressionally mandate release of lands recommended for nonwilderness.

I cannot and do not support alternative W. Montana cannot afford to lose any additional acres from its resource base. So I would ask Congress to reject this latest assault on our natural resources and to speedily conclude the RARE II process.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Livingston follows:]

To The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
of The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Anaconda, Montana July7, 1983

My name is Betty K. Livingston, my home is in Deer Lodge and has been for 20 years. I am the mother of 5 and grandmother of 6, and am a member of Women in Timber. My husband has been employed in the wood products industry for about 25 years, we love living in western Mt. and hope we can continue to work in the industry.

We've come here today to express our thoughts on the R.A.R.E. II dilemma, and I have a few reasons why I think it's imperative that this issue be resolved soon.

1... Montana is a natural resource based economy, with 750,000 people living here in the 3rd largest state, it is essential that we be able to manage our natural resources for the benefit of all. All facets of resource use are needed, timber harvest, mining, exploration for gas oil and minerals, and motorized recreation. Prudent and proprer use of our resources can be compatible with the wilderness we have now and a clean enviornment.

2... The Forest Service needs to be able to go ahead with forest plans, and to manage our public lands like we pay them to do. As things stand now their hands are tied and it will probably take from 2 to 5 years to get all phases of management back on an even keel.

The people who depend on the forest resource also are in limbo as to making future plans until RARE II is resolved.

3... Montana already has over 5 million acres of single purpose lands. There are more than 3 million acres in wilderness, plus 1,181,000 acres in National Parks, 1,178,000 acres in Wildlife Refuges and more than 50,000 acres in Primitive Areas.

These lands are managed essentially as wilderness, and I beleive Montana has contributed a great amount to our National Wilderness System (over 3 million) and now its time to say STOP! It's time to use a sound mind and seek balance!

4... Wilderness advocates say ' we must consider the economic importance of wilderness areas ' . Well, I have no idea what overripe decaying timber and dead falls are worth, but I do have an idea what timber lands withdrawn for wilderness can cost Montana's citisens, Montana's counties, State and Federal treasuries.

6,534,410 acres are at the present time being considered in the RARE II process.

3,135,019 of these acres are classified as commercial timberland by the USFS.

786MMBF Allowable Annual Harvest is the estimate for this land.

Each I MMBF harvested generates 5 direct jobs and 10 indirect or service related jobs. (Statistics Dr Maxine Johnson, U of M Missoula)

786 MMBF would therefor generate 3932 timber related jobs and 7865 supported service and trade jobs.

$97 million would be the approximate ANNUAL pay roll.

$13 million approximately would go to the counties to help with schools and.roads.

$ 2 million would go into state coffers as State Income Tax.

$9.5 million would be paid in Federal Income Taxes.

$40 million plus,would go into federal coffers from stumpage.

$852 millionplus, generated by business's manufacturing wood products.

The afore mentioned figures are ANNUAL earnings that would be forever lost if the lands mentioned are taken for wilderness.
I think we could help ourselves, our state, our nation by getting RARE II resolved so we can get on with our lives.

Congress should act swiftly to resolve the uncertainty for all concerned, and Congress is the only body that can do this.
They must: Tell the American people the studies done during the RARE II process are sufficient and need not be done again... Congressionaly Mandate Release of lands recomended for non wilderness.

I realise the need for wilderness and its enjoyment, but we must have a balance of resource use.
I can'not and do not support Alternative "W". This proposal goes beyond the balance by far, is dipping practicaly into some peoples back yards, and Montana can'not afford to lose another 2 million acres from it's resource base.

So I would ask congress to reject this latest assault on our natural resources and to speedily conclude the RARE II process.

Senator MELCHER. Vince Heier.

STATEMENT OF VINCE HEIER, PRESIDENT, MONTANA EAST SIDE FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Mr. HEIER. Senator Melcher and Honorable Representatives from Montana, my name is Vince Heier. I am president of the Montana East Side Forest Practices Committee and present this testimony on their behalf.

The Montana East Side Forest Practices Committee is an association of forest products companies engaged in timber harvesting, primary wood processing and reforestation in Montana, primarily east of the Continental Divide.

Our companies provide direct employment for over 1,500 people. Our members are concerned about the continuing erosion of the commercial forest land base. They cannot continue to operate their firms and provide jobs if sufficient timber supplies are not available to them.

We are expressly concerned about the future needs of the Nation relating to wood and wood products, oil and gas, minerals, grazing, water yield, motorized recreation, and wildlife.

The wood products firms east of the Continental Divide in Montana are heavily dependent upon Forest Service timber. Competition for this timber is very intense. Without sufficiency and release language, this competition will result in the elimination of some of these wood processing firms and the important jobs they provide.

We have already experienced the closure of one of the east side's most prolific studmills at Livingston, Mont. The closure of this mill was a direct result of an unavailable and unstable timber supply caused by the proliferation of wilderness and wilderness study areas in their operating area.

The loss of timber base can be attributed to the past classification of commercial timberland as wilderness, the de facto wilderness caused by RARE I, RARE II and S. 393 studies plus the current trend to use the appeal process to stop proposed development in roadless areas identified in RARE II.

Due to the amount of commercially productive timberlands currently administered as de facto wilderness and the massive mountain pine beetle epidemic, we need legislative action to release these areas from further studies.

I have with me a copy of the most comprehensive regional mountain pine beetle study done with the U.S. Forest Service in the State of Montana. This was made available to me this morning. We feel this study is the most comprehensive one available.

My organization firmly believes that the information contained in this study is reason enough to demand an end to the senseless study of our national forest lands in Montana. Therefore, we support an omnibus wilderness bill for the State of Montana. We believe such a bill is necessary to resolve the questions brought about by the ninth circuit court's decision of April of 1982.

We further support the Forest Service recommendations for nonwilderness in the Big Snowie, Middlefork of the Judith, West Pioneer and Elkhorn S. 393 areas. We support management of these areas for all resource uses under the current forest-planning process.

We have supported the wilderness concept, have been supporters of past wilderness areas and have been instrumental in our support for the Lee Metcalf area introduced by Senator Melcher.

However, due to the current wilderness inventory in Montana east of the divide and the pending passage of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, we are firmly opposed to any further additions to the wilderness system east of the divide and recommend all remaining forest lands be managed under reasonable and balanced multiple use planning to provide a full range of resources outputs for all Americans.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Bob Garner.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT W. GARNER, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Mr. GARNER. My name is Bob Garner, I live in Bozeman, Mont.

The people of Montana are this State's greatest natural resource and they are being destroyed by external pressures to turn Montana into a playground paradise for people who care little or nothing about Montana's real heritage.

The thoughtless clamor for ever-increasing designation of Montana land for single-use purposes such as backpacking is a fad which must be stopped before it's too late. The spirit of Montana's people is irreplaceable and no amount of political lobbying by so-called environmentalists for the destruction of Montana's human resources should be allowed to disguise this truth.

How has Montana been able to remain what it has been all these years without the help of zealously self-serving backpackers and environmentalist propagandists?

If you're concerned about threatened or endangered species, look first at the people who settled Montana and made it what it is, and ask yourselves what is happening to them at the hands of so-called environmentalists.

The uncontrolled growth of so-called wilderness is a people-destroying industry which cares nothing about the people who live here: Cattle ranchers, wheat farmers, sheepherders, cowboys, Indians, Christian pioneers, fur traders, foresters, miners, and new settlers for whom the harsh realities of life in Montana are worth the struggle against the eternal odds of making the place habitable.

Compare the pride and progress of these people with the holier-than-thou selfishness of legalistic wilderness juveniles whose greed for more and more Montana land is insatiable. These arrogant and ignorant children of privilege have more toys and playgrounds in this State now than they'll ever need or be able to play with. But the simplistic gratification of their own bloated senses takes precedence with them over the damage they are causing to the spirit of Montana's true wilderness pioneers.

Life magazine recently had the gall to publish a propaganda cover story entitled "Montana's Glacier Wilderness and Others Facing Ruin." But there's no ruin in Montana except the environmentalist destruction of people's pride in themselves, in their families, their history, and tradition.

You make people believe that every time they lift a finger or move a muscle they wreak havoc and destruction to their environment and you destroy people whose pride in their labor is their main source of energy.

Does anyone seriously believe that Montana can survive as a Wilderness Society playground or a Sierra Club calendar image while its real resources, its people, are destroyed by paranoid propaganda and its trees killed by pine beetles being protected as part of a naively defined natural order of things?

Newspapers throughout the country this week carried AP and New York Times wire service stories quoting National Audubon Society warnings that wildlife preserves throughout the country are threatened by oil and gas drilling, timber cutting, fishing, and fur trapping, yet this same National Audubon Society operates half a dozen gas wells on its own 27,000-acre Rainey wildlife sanctuary in Vermillion Parish, La., from which it earns nearly $1 million a year in royalties from major oil companies.

The outright hypocrisy of preservationist organizations is astonishing. They care nothing for the truth and say little about where they get their own money to operate, but the facts are that they survive off the same basic resources the rest of us do. They just aren't honest enough to admit the real motives behind their quest for more and more wilderness land.

We're not destroying the world by being alive, by planting trees, or cutting them down, by tilling the soil, and feeding the world with our rich agricultural produce, or by riding our motorcycles and snowmobiles on public land on our days off. We're destroying ourselves with needlessly excessive caution and irrational fear.

Get the self-serving environmentalist landgrabbers out of the way and Montana will continue to be preserved, as it always has been, by people who know what it is they're preserving.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Garner follows:]

Statement of: Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-8411

To: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water,
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subject: Need for sufficiency and release legislation re:
Forest Service RARE II Studies

Hearing Date & Place: July 7, 1983; Anaconda, Montana

Attention: Senator John Melcher and other members of the Montana Congressional Delegation

TO BE MADE AN OFFICIAL PART OF THE RECORD

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S T A T E M E N T

The people of Montana are this state's greatest natural resource, and they are being destroyed by external pressures to turn Montana into a playground paradise for people who care little or nothing about Montana's real heritage. The thoughtless clamor for ever-increasing designation of Montana land for single-use purposes such as backpacking is a fad which must be stopped before it's too late. The spirit of Montana's people is irreplaceable, and no amount of political lobbying by so-called "environmentalists" for the destruction of Montana's human resources should be allowed to disguise this truth.

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The uncontrolled growth of so-called "wilderness" is a people-destroying industry which cares nothing about the people who live here -- cattle ranchers, wheat farmers, sheepherders, cowboys, Indians, Christian pioneers, fur traders, foresters, miners, and new settlers for whom the harsh realities of life in Montana are worth the struggle against the eternal odds of making the place habitable. Compare the pride and progress of these people with

the holier-than-thou selfishness of legalistic wilderness juveniles whose greed for more and more Montana land is insatiable. These arrogant and ignorant children of privilege have more toys and playgrounds in this state now than they'll ever need or be able to play with, but the simplistic gratification of their own bloated senses takes precedence with them over the damage they are causing to the spirit of Montana's true wilderness pioneers.

LIFE magazine recently had the gall to publish a propaganda cover story, entitled "Montana's Glacier Wilderness and Others Facing Ruin," but there's no ruin in Montana except the environmentalist destruction of people's pride in themselves, in their families, their history and tradition. Make people believe that everytime they lift a finger or move a muscle they wreak havoc and destruction to their "environment," and you destroy people whose pride in their labor is their main source of energy. Does anyone seriously believe that Montana can survive as a Wilderness Society playground or a Sierra Club calendar image while its real resources -- its people -- are destroyed by paranoid propaganda, and its trees killed by pine beetles being protected as part of a naively defined "natural order" of things?

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The outright hypocrisy of preservationist organizations is astonishing. They care nothing for the truth, and say little about where they get their own money to operate, but the facts are that they survive off the same basic resources the rest of us do, they just aren't honest enough to admit the real motives behind their quest for more and more "wilderness" land.

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our rich agricultural produce, or by riding our motorcycles and snowmobiles on public land on our days off. We're destroying ourselves with needlessly excessive caution and irrational fear. Get these self-serving environmentalist land-grabbers out of the way, and Montana will continue to be preserved -- as it always has been -- by people who know what it is they're preserving.

Thank you.

Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-8411

FOR THE RECORD

RARE II Hearings, Anaconda, Montana; July 7, 1983

Attention: Senator John Melcher and other officials presiding

From: Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-8411

Subject: PINE BEETLE in RESIDENTIAL BOZEMAN: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE and a CALL FOR ACTION to end the ENVIRONMENTALIST INSANITY Which Encourages Further Hazards of this Sort!!!!!!!!!!!!

Two years ago I had to have removed from the backyard of my home at 916 S. Willson in Bozeman, Montana, a 30-year-old fir tree because it had been killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle which has infested the Gallatin National Forest and elsewhere.

One of my neighbors noticed that the tree was dying from the top because the tree is visible at that level from one of their upstairs windows. They notified us and we began calling people to find out what might be happening. Within weeks the tree began dropping all its needles and I contacted Roy Kelley of Kelley Tree Service. He immediately told us that the tree must be cut down and destroyed because it was infested with the Mountain Pine Beetle.

Mr. Kelley told my wife and I that we had to act quickly in removing the tree because the Pine Beetle would soon be coming out of the tree and looking for other hosts in the area. He suggested that we notify our neighbors of the existence of the beetle and that they should examine their trees for signs of their presence. We did so, and told Mr. Kelley to begin removing the tree immediately.

Mr. Kelley expressed additional concern that the tree was a fir tree, not a pine, because to his knowledge the Pine Beetle did not normally attack those trees. He worried that this incident might be an indication that the Pine Beetle was running out of pine tree hosts and could now be endangering other trees as well, and that the potential consequences of this was very serious indeed, for all of Montana's trees, people and animals, since the fire hazard accompanying the beetle infestation was growing more serious all the time.

As time passed, I learned that many of the trees in the Gallatin and elsewhere being killed by the Pine Beetle were in areas "protected" by "wilderness" and special study designations which hampered various forestry services from acting to prevent the spread of this infestation and the accompanying fire hazard.

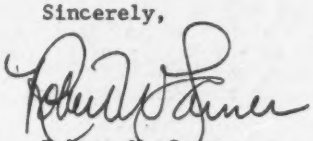
I have very strong disagreement with so-called "environmentalist" harassments and procrastinations on a variety of levels, and my experience with the Mountain Pine Beetle in my own backyard in

residential Bozeman is one more which angers me deeply. I strongly protest the ability of such self-serving individuals to pretend to be acting in the best interest of the community at large when they actually are creating a very serious hazard for all humans, trees and wildlife in the area.

These so-called "environmentalists" are clearly crazy people and should be carefully examined as such. They oppose for the sake of opposing, they are against everything merely because they are against everything. Pretensions to a "natural order" in protecting the Pine Beetle in its devastation of our forests is indication enough that these very weird people are a hazardous waste in our midst, and should be dealt with accordingly.

There is no positive value in denying us protection against the Mountain Pine Beetle and the accompanying fire hazard, and I very strongly demand that restrictions be lifted which prevent appropriately professional action to protect the forests and the animal and human inhabitants of the area from the continuing Pine Beetle and fire hazards. These insects (Pine Beetles and "environmentalists") are a very serious threat and should be dealt with immediately.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715

FOR THE RECORD

RARE II Hearings, Anaconda, Montana; July 7, 1983

Attention: Senator John Melcher and other officials presiding

From: Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-8411

Subject: WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS REPORT MOTORCYCLES DO NOT DISTURB ELK AS MUCH AS HUMAN FOOT TRAFFIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Until a few years ago, "environmentalist" objections to the use of trail bikes on public land were almost always based on the claim that it disturbed backpackers' quests for personal solitude and escape from civilization. That argument very often did not produce the desired effects, so the argument was changed to the claim that trail bikes were disturbing to wildlife habitat. As long ago as 1975-1976, however, wildlife biologists A. Lorin Ward and Jerry J. Cupal, in cooperation with the University of Wyoming at Laramie, in research funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration, concluded that humans on foot had a much greater negative impact than trail bikes on elk under study in their natural habitat.

Using heart rate monitoring, as well as visual observation, Ward and Cupal tested the effects of various human activities on elk during the summer, fall and winter of 1975-76 on Pole Mountain just east of Laramie, Wyoming, and at the Sybille Wildlife Unit maintained by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. These elk have been hunted on an either-sex permit basis since 1969, and approximately 50 elk inhabited the area. Elk behavior has been studied in this area since 1971. The area is a popular recreational area for activities including viewing, picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, hiking and trail-biking.

With respect to trail-bike riding, tests were conducted with a person riding a 100cc trail bike past and within view of the elk at ranges from 15 meters to 170 meters. "At 170 meters, the elk remained lying down in aspen, with no heart rate response, the report states. "Finally, the elk were approached directly upwind with the motorbike. The spike got up and moved from the aspen when the motorbike was 15 meters away. The elk moved over a gentle ridge into more aspen, and the spike's heart rate returned to normal resting rate within four minutes." The report further notes that trail bike noise was not recordable above sounds of wind in the aspen until the bike was within about 50 meters of the elk bed site.

Contrasting the effects of the trail bike tests on the elk with other human activities, Ward and Cupal observed that "events such as humans on foot and gunshots produced a high percentage of positive heart rate reactions, particularly if the disturbances were within 300 meters of the elk. These encounters likewise resulted in a high percentage of flight reactions."

During one test, the elk sighted a human on foot at the same time a 22-caliber pistol was fired, got up from its resting position and fled a distance of 500 meters before stopping.

Contrast this with the fact that the elk remained lying down during a trail bike test at 50 meters, and did not move until the bike was within 15 meters, and then only moved to a nearby spot out of view where it took up its resting position immediately.

The fact that humans on foot and other activities (including the approach of other animals such as mule deer into the elk area) produced greater heart rate response and flight reaction than was the case with trail bike activity, there seems to be no justification for singling out trail bike use for restrictive regulation on public land when such restriction does not equally apply to such activities as backpacking, hunting, cross-country skiing, etc. An objective review of the facts does not warrant such discrimination against trail bikes. Trail bike use on public land is a legitimate use which should not be restricted any more than other human activities. The bias of backpackers, etc. against trail bikes is personal and emotional, not scientific or "ecological," as such people claim. Unless all human activity is to be curtailed equally, there is no valid reason presented for the exclusion of trail bikes from multiple use management of public lands.

In addition to such scientific evidence as the Ward and Cupal studies, talk to trail bikers themselves, and they will corroborate the conclusions in personal terms. Elk and deer very often trot along behind motorcycles and snowmobiles, out of apparent curiosity. A friend of mine once rode within a few feet of a bear, who stood alongside the trail and watched the bike go by. My friend said that his own heart-rate response increased considerably when he realized that what he had thought was a "tree stump" stood up as he approached, but that the bear itself seemed curious but disinterested as the biker, at a dead-end in the trail, had to turn around and pass in front of the bear a second time. Once again, the bear watched with interest but not alarm.

Such experiences of trail bike riders are numerous, and along with such studies as the Ward and Cupal elk report, indicate that no evidence exists to suggest that motorcycles are a hazard or disruption to the wildlife environment. My own personal experience has been that trail bike riding has brought me into the midst of wild deer herds which did not respond extremely to my presence, but rather just took a few steps aside and watched as I passed by within 20 to 50 yards.

It is time to stop harassment of trail bike riders, and allow them the same freedoms which other land users enjoy.

Robert W. Turner

Senator MELCHER. The Mountain pine beetle study, the other submitted by Bob Graham, and the mountain pine beetle study will be in the committee files.

Our next panel will be Jim Welch, Raelen Williard, Hugh Zackheim, Al Luebeck, Tom Greason, Claudia Schaeffer, Michael Yost, Arnold Olsen, Clint Rouse, Jay Vest, and Pat King.

Jim Welch is not here? Jim is here.

STATEMENT OF JIM WELCH, ARROW RANCH, WISDOM, MONT.

Mr. WELCH. My name is Jim Welch. I own Arrow Ranch which borders the forest for 9 miles between Pintlar and Plimpton Creeks. Arrow Ranch comprises 13,000 acres with an additional 8,000 acres of forest-grazing permit. My comments are directed toward the road that runs from Pintlar to the Thompson Creek. It runs behind my ranch and through the area which I lease from the Government to graze cattle.

I purchased our ranch after 4 years of active investigation. I chose the Big Hole and particularly our ranch because of the pristine qualities of the wildlife and fisheries.

Prior to making Montana and Arrow Ranch my home, I was a major homebuilder in California. I built primarily frame houses, over 4,000. Consequently, I know the importance of lumber, particularly cheap studs, our primary component.

Our personal and legal residence is the ranch. We vote and pay taxes in Montana.

This multimillion-dollar investment was based upon natural abundance of wildlife and scenic beauty of our ranch and the adjoining forest. These qualities were in large part a determinant of that value. In perspective, I paid 50 percent for agricultural value and 50 percent for esthetic value. Most of southwest Montana's land values are directly related to scenic value and natural wildlife qualities.

The strip between existing Pintlar Wilderness and our ranch boundary is approximately 1½ miles wide. The timber between our ranch and the existing Pintlar Wilderness is marginal. It will produce I'm told somewhere in the area of 5,000 board feet per acre at best. The road to service this and future roads to service the logging will not pay for themselves.

Considering the national need for saving of taxes, it seems like a poor investment and a very big disruption of one of the prime, elk-calving areas in this part of the State.

Motorbikes are currently using a road partially completed and officially closed. Every weekend I have motorbikes chasing the elk and calves; hunters in the hunting season. All of these activities are legal but, because the roads are there, they are used.

The tradeoff in this marginal area between the destruction of wildlife and the fisheries for logging economically I don't believe is reconcilable. The reported value of an elk calf is $1,500 to $2,000. Each year several hundred are born in this area. Particularly, this is true of the Clam Valley area.

Using the values stated above this produces an annual income of $300,000 to $400,000. This is without logging and certainly more

dollars are pumped into the State than would be produced by logging this area.

Last, 10 years ago an almost identical situation down the valley behind Dale Bacon's ranch, another primary, elk-calving area was lost. Within 5 years no elk existed behind his ranch. The only elk behind his ranch now are the ones that happen to come out of our area as the season changes.

I support the wilderness designation for the area between the Pintlar Creek and Plimpton Creek. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Welch follows:]

ARROW RANCH
P.O. Box 11
Wisdom, Montana 59761

Support for the
EXTENTION of the
Pintlar Wilderness

U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands
Anaconda, Montana
July 7, 1983

My name is Jim Welch. I own Arrow Ranch which borders the forest for 9 miles between Pintlar and Plimpton Creeks. Arrow Ranch comprises 13,000 acres, with an additional 8,000 acres of forest grazing permit. My comments are directed towards the road that runs from Pintlar to the Thompson Creek; it runs behind my ranch and through the area which I lease from the governament to graze cattle.

I puchased our ranch after four years of active investigation. I chose the Big Hole,and particularly our ranch, because ~~EA~~ the pristine qualities of the wildlife and fisheries.

Prior to making Montana and Arrow Ranch our home, I was a major home builder in San Diego, California—the 7th largest city in America. I built primarily frame houses, over 4,000, Consequently, I know the importance of lumber—particularly cheap studs, our primary component.

Our personal and legal residence is the ranch. We vote and pay taxes in Montana.

Our multi-million dollar investment was based upon natural abundance of wildlife and scenic beauty of our ranch and the adjoining forest. These qualities were in large part a determinant of value. In perspective, I

paid 50% for agricultural value and 50% for aesthetic qualities. S.W. Montana's land values are based first on scenic value and then on agricultural.

As I have indicated, we made a personal choice; it was based upon investigation and logical reasoning.

The strip between the existing Pintlar Wilderness and our ranch boundry is varying but averages 1½ miles. The timber inbetween is of marginal commercial value—5,000 board feet per acre. The access, ridiculously expensive to build, is so expensive that it couldn't be amortized in 25 years. Considering our apparent need nationally for a balanced budget who could possibly make the economic decision that that expenditure was a relevant and important use of tax revenue. Yet a useless, expensive road was built to log marginal timber.

What are the stakes? A major loss of wildlife habitat. Not because of the logging, but because of roads and massive public access of motorized vehicles. Motor bikes are currently using the road now and during hunting season although it is closed. AlAlmost every weekend we have bikers chasing elks and their calves through the forest and our ranch. The trade off between logging this marginal area and the destruction of wildlife and fisheries cannot be economically reconciled.

The reported value of an elk calf is $1,500 to $2,000. Each year several hundred are born in the forest adjoining our ranch. Particularly this is true of the area surrounding Clam Valley. In the park and creek bottoms a dozen or more moose cows calf.

Using the values stated would produce an income of $300,000 to $400,000 annually without major expenditure or environmental disruption. Logging this area would produce a significant loss of revenue by destroying the natural habitat and by providing easy access to the important calving areas by motorized vehicles during calving and hunting season.

In summary, the logging which requires roads will destroy the natural habitat which my wife and children have invested greatly to enjoy. The destruction of their significant calving area will in time incrementally reduce the value of all ranches in the Big Hole. The ranchers of S.W. Montana are determined by what will remain natural, scenic and endring.

Lastly, ten years ago behind Dale Bacons ranch and almost identical environmental condition existed...a pristine habitat with a major elk calving area. Mr. Bacon reports within five years af the first timber sale all elk were gone. Why? Because of a road which provided incredibly easy access and very reduced natural cover for the elk.

Does history repeat? Can we learn? I believe not one responsible timber man would disrupt the environment for marginal results.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Raelan Williard.

STATEMENT OF RAELAN WILLIARD, BIG HOLE RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

Ms. WILLIARD. My name is Realen Williard and I'm from Butte. Before I start, I would like to thank the committee. I think all of us, no matter what our views, appreciate the opportunity to talk to you directly. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you directly. It brings the congressional process just one step closer to all of us.

I am testifying before you on behalf of the Big Hole River Watershed Coalition which is made up of southwest Montana sportsmen's groups who are very concerned about the future of the Beaverhead National Forest and the prized fishery of the Big Hole River. The coalition includes the Skyline Sportsmen's Association of Butte; the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club; the Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens; the Butte Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and, the Dillon-based Big Hole River Watershed Association. The coalition strongly supports the Big Hole River watershed proposal which would grant wilderness status to the West Big Hole, East Pioneers, and North Big Hole, and protect the West Pioneer Mountains.

The group believes that the recreational aspects of the Beaverhead Forest and the Big Hole River watershed provide a major source of revenue for Butte-Silver Bow and Beaverhead and Madison Counties by attracting hunters, fishermen, and people who enjoy the outdoors to the area. A major concern of the group is that a large amount of this revenue would be lost if massive logging, roading, and watershed impacts take place in the area. With this concern in mind, an economic survey of all commercial guides and outfitters who operate within the Big Hole watershed, including both back country and river guides, was taken for the year 1982. The survey sheets were sent out in April and May of this year and most, but not all, guides responded. So the numbers I'm going to give you are incomplete at this point.

The survey results we have to date are 1,204 landings and boardings at the Butte Airport. This is particularly significant since there are continual rumors that either Western or Northwest Airlines will pull a flight out of Butte. There have been 167 cars rented in Butte. There have been 1,557 motel units rented. That includes 180 in Butte; 461 in Dillon; 400 in Wise River; 32 in Melrose; and, 325 in Twin Bridges.

In additon, remarks made by the guides on the survey sheets indicated that their clients also made significant purchases in restaurants, bars, and sporting goods stores throughout the area.

Of course, it is obvious to anybody that hunts or fishes that not everyone who hunts or fishes employes the services of a guide. Therefore, the coalition feels that it is safe to assume that many individuals coming into the area on their own have an even greater economic impact on these communities than those listed in the above survey.

At the present the coalition is in the process of gathering nonresident hunting and fishing data from the department of fish, wild-

life, and parks and this information will be forwarded to the subcommittee when it becomes available.

The fate of the Big Hole River is tied to its watershed areas. Any upset in water flows on the Big Hole which might result in a fish kill on the river would be an economic disaster to southwest Montana. Also, massive logging of roadless areas would result in poorer hunting and probably result in shorter hunting seasons, thus making the area less attractive to both resident and nonresident hunters. Any of these conditions could put several outfitting businesses out of business. On the other hand, opening up roadless areas within the Big Hole drainage to timber cutting would result in only a handfull of new jobs in the timber industry.

The Big Hole Watershed Coalition feels that considerable study should be given to the economic trade offs which will result from development of the roadless areas. Significant economic contributions can be assured for the many individuals and businesses that depend on the area for a livelihood by designating the West Big Hole, East Pioneers, and North Big Hole as wilderness and granting continuing protection for the West Pioneer Mountains. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Hugh Zackheim.

STATEMENT OF HUGH ZACKHEIM, TWIN BRIDGES, MONT.

Mr. ZACKHEIM. My name is Hugh Zackheim. I'm from Twin Bridges and I speak in support of alternative W and, particularly, the Big Hole River watershed proposal as contained in that alternative.

The Big Hole watershed proposal, to look at the areas involved, you have the West Big Hole, which is a beautiful family recreation area in the low country easily accessible with spectacular high country lakes; the West Pioneers, unexcelled hunting in Montana, the best chance for a six-point bull elk in the State and the Nation, perhaps; the East Pioneers, spectacular high lake country again, recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service; and the Pintlar Additions, critical elk calving areas as mentioned by Mr. Welch and one of the most important producing areas for our elk herds in southwest Montana.

I would like to echo Raelen's sentiments about the importance of recreation as a basic industry in southwest Montana. If any of you had been down to the Big Hole River about 2 weeks ago you would have seen 100 boats in the canyon in a 10-mile stretch between Divide and Melrose. Most of these boats are guided and most of the money comes from out of State and the people are there because the Big Hole River runs clear even during high water and provides outstanding fishing and that's attributable to the nature of the watershed.

I would like to look at the proposed 10-year timber sale for the Beaverhead National Forest. As proposed in the 50-year plan we'll see on the average of 5,000 new arces of new clear-cuts every year for 50 years in the Beaverhead National Forest. The point I would like to make with respect to that—here's a map that shows the proposed timber sales in the area. Only 3 of the 60 timber sales on

this map for the next 10 years are in conflict with the Big Hole River watershed proposal as contained in alternative W.

So I guess the point is the conflicts have been overstated. We are looking at some of the key watershed areas with the highest values. You can have a sound timber economy and somewhere near those 5,000 acres of new clear cuts per year without disrupting the critical watershed areas and the economy of the area.

Senator Melcher once spoke to the Wildlife Federation and said he opposed deficit timber sales throughout the State. I think there's ample documentation that most of the timber sales in the Beaverhead Forest are deficit and those kinds of comments were submitted on the Beaverhead National Forest plan and are available.

I would also like to address what I consider a myth with respect to the local attitudes of southwestern Montanans. The chamber of commerce about 1 or 2 years ago sponsored a telephone survey. They reached 185 southwest Montana residents in the Dillon area. The results of the survey showed, for the East Pioneers, 42 percent of the people in the Dillon area wanted complete or partial wilderness protection. Only 23 percent wanted no wilderness. West Pioneers, 45 percent were for complete or partial wilderness. Only 20 percent of Dillon residents in this impartial survey were against wilderness. West Big Hole, 41 percent were for complete or partial wilderness and 39 percent were for no wilderness.

I think the key point to be made, too, is in terms of roads. On that same survey 90 percent of the residents of the Dillon area thought the current amount of roads in the forest were OK or there should be fewer roads. Only 6 percent in the survey wanted more roads in the forest.

I think the people in the Dillion area appreciate the public land and the way they have been managed and recognize the importance of maintaining some critical areas. I think wilderness has been made a scapegoat. I think in truth history has not shown a loss of grazing due to wilderness. In truth the Big Hole areas in our proposal are not critical to the local timber industry; and, in truth, wilderness and wilderness studies have not been responsible for the recent economic slump nationwide or locally. I think the antiwilderness generalities have not been helpful in terms of the debate on this issue.

I urge the committee to look at the land and the resources and see why these areas remain roadless and undeveloped because of the lack of high economic value and see the other economic values we get from maintaining a roadless State in terms of watershed and wildlife recreation. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Al Luebeck.

STATEMENT OF AL LUEBECK, CHAIRMAN, BEAVERHEAD FOREST CONCERNED CITIZENS

Mr. LUEBECK. I am Al Luebeck, chairman of the Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens. Our organization strongly supports the introduction into Congress of an omnibus wilderness bill and we want to encourage the Montana delegation to include several areas

on the Beaverhead National Forest in this bill. We also support alternative W, the citizen conservationist wilderness alternatives.

We seek wilderness protection for four areas within the Big Hole River drainage, the West Big Hole, the East and West Pioneer Mountains, and the North Big Hole addition to the Pintlar Wilderness. Our concern for these four areas along with a deepening concern for maintaining critical late summer waterflows within the famed Big Hole River have evolved into what we are calling the Big Hole River watershed protection proposal. Not only should the four areas mentioned above be protected because they possess high wilderness qualities in their own right, but also because their protection will help insure stable waterflows within the famed Big Hole River. That our concerns for the Big Hole are real is evidenced by the fact that the river only carried 44 cubic feet of water, about 10 percent of its normal flow, near its mouth in August of 1981. It was almost dry. So the concerns we have for the river are real and any upset in that water should tilt the balance and cause a massive die off of the fish.

I would like to discuss in some detail the four areas themselves.

The watershed area which is best known is the West Big Hole. BFCC's original proposal was for a wilderness of 86,000 acres. However, because of a proposed shift in management by the Forest Service which would remove part of the area from the timber base and in order to resolve conflicts, we would be willing to look at boundary adjustments which would reduce the acreage. We are ready to look at a compromise boundary.

The West Big Hole is an outstandingly beautiful roadless area and is most deserving of wilderness protection. It is a land of spectacular snow-capped peaks and forested ridges dotted by numerous alpine lakes. These lakes are the source of a dozen or so cold clear streams which meander through a series of beautiful mountain meadows. These meadows are one of the dominant land features of the West Big Hole and provide a unique setting not found in any other wilderness area in Montana.

Over the years protection of the West Big Hole has drawn strong public support with 62 percent of those commenting during the RARE II process favoring wilderness protection. Last year we drew innumerable comments of expression of concern for the area.

Next I would like to discuss the 149,000-acre West Pioneer Mountain area. The West Pioneers are the most wildlife rich of the four areas having a large elk herd of 1,000 animals, a thriving moose population, and good populations of deer and mountain goats. Several lakes contain the rare grayling.

Because it is still roadless, this area has a good population of big trophy-size bull elk and, according to the Department of Fish and Game biologists, it is one of the few areas left in this part of Montana where hunters consistently bag trophy bulls. The extensive road system needed for logging this area would make the area so accessible and elk so vulnerable that the quality hunt now provided by the area would quickly deteriorate.

The area should be protected from development of the very marginal timber found there. In order to avoid conflicts, BFCC would be willing to look at a protective designation other than wilderness;

but, we strongly oppose release of the area from its wilderness study status at this time.

The 88,000-acre East Pioneer Mountain area is a core of the more than 200,000 acres which make up the East Pioneer Mountain Range. It is an exceptional alpine area of high rugged peaks and small mountain lakes. There are very few conflicts in the area with regard to timber and minerals.

The last of the four watershed areas is the 30,000 acre North Big Hole addition to the Pintlar Wilderness area. This area has a good elk population and contains some very critical elk calving areas. Its addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness would add diversity to this wilderness since it is now made up of high-elevation areas and the addition contains mainly lower elevation areas made up of forests, meadows, and park lands.

In closing I would like to point out that unspoiled and undeveloped back country has always been part of our heritage in Montana. It is something Montanans cherish and care about deeply. Yet, it is disappearing rapidly. Each new timber sale removes a couple of thousand acres.

We are petitioning you, our elected representatives in Congress, to recognize these feelings Montanans have for wild country and to designate a few of the remaining roadless areas in this state as wilderness. Thank you.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you.

Tom Greason.

STATEMENT OF TOM GREASON, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Mr. GREASON. Tom Greason from Bozeman. I've long been a wilderness advocate and my presence here today strengthens that commitment.

I support the statewide conservation alternative W for all 10 Montana national forests. This plan would designate approximately 2.2 million acres of additional wilderness while soft releasing another 3 million acres.

I will not elaborate on the virtues of wilderness as it's all been said before. Let it suffice to say wilderness is essential for the protection of our treasured natural resources and environment; our spiritual heritage; and, our economy.

Tourism in Montana brings in millions of dollars annually and the drawing card is our abundant blue ribbon rivers; our trophy game habitat; and, our spectacular scenery all which directly depends on the wise use of our lands. Therefore, keeping our State in its current desirable condition should be our objective.

To do this we must set aside and legally protect roadless lands to insure the quality of our natural treasures. We must have additional wilderness designation.

According to a recent Forest Service statement, wilderness use was up 5 percent in 1982; and, to accommodate this growth, certain limits will have to be set. As the trend continues, and it is projected, the demands on our finite wilderness resources could erode the very quality which is sought after. We need more designated areas. You as lawmakers have the duty to provide extended opportunities for the increasing number of wilderness users.

Specifically, I would like to comment on areas within the Beaverhead National Forest of which I am most familiar. Two years ago the Big Hole River watershed protection plan was proposed for the Beaverhead. This concept was fostered by the urgency to protect the Big Hole River for agriculture, recreation, and wildlife.

The headwaters of the superb river are severely threatened while the demands of the downstream water users approach maximum tolerable levels. By establishing an 86,000-acre West Big Hole Wilderness and an 88,000-acre East Pioneer Wilderness, a 144,000-acre West Pioneer Wilderness, and a 30,000-acre North Big Hole Pintlar Addition Wilderness, the security and future of this great river system will be assured. I strongly urge you to include these four crucial areas in the Montana wilderness bill. May I also add each one of these areas has enough merit and outstanding characteristics to stand by themselves as exceptional wilderness areas.

I would also like to solicit your support for a designation of a 20,000-acre Italian Peaks Wilderness. This area would enhance the 80,000-acre wilderness proposal in Idaho.

I thank you for your time and I hope a reasonable consensus can be achieved.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Is Claudia Schaeffer here? She's not here.

Michael Yost.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL YOST, FORESTRY INSTRUCTOR, FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE

Mr. YOST. My name is Michael Yost. I'm the forestry instructor of a small college in northern California.

In 1981 I taught a 3-week field course in the West Big Hole and the West Pioneers. One of the reasons I was asked to teach the course was because of my earlier forestry experience in Montana on the Lewis and Clark National Forest where I worked in timber using sale administration and site preparation.

As a major part of the course the students established a number of tree-growth study plots. We calculated timber volume at 5,000 board feet per acre; growth rates of 25 cubic feet per acre per year; and, an average site index of 30.

Using the Forest Service data for costs of road building, sale administration, slash disposal, and site preparation we discovered costs associated with timber harvesting actually were higher than prices paid for the timber. We concluded from this most timber sales in the area would very likely be deficit sales.

In both areas, in the West Big Hole and West Pioneers, we were impressed with the wildness, the solitude, and the abundance of fish and wildlife. We were also impressed by the quality and quantity of the water from these areas which feed the Big Hole River.

Our conclusion was that the wisest use of resources here is not deficit timber harvesting but, rather, the protection of the pristine qualities of both areas.

I would ask you to support the Big Hole River watershed protection proposal as outlined in alternative W. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Claudia Schaeffer is here now.

STATEMENT OF CLAUDIA SCHAEFFER, DILLON, MONT.

Ms. SCHAEFFER. I'm sorry I was late. I drove over from Dillon and just arrived.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on prospective statewide RARE II legislation.

I'm concerned about the decline of wildlands in Montana and I strongly urge Congress to do all it can to preserve what remains of our State's wilderness heritage. An omnibus wilderness bill for Montana should include roadless areas not already designated as wilderness. I support soft release of these lands during the 10- to 15-year forest planning period. Soft release has been applied to State wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, West Virginia, and Florida. It is, therefore, an appropriate compromise for similar legislation for Montana.

I would like to comment on specific areas on the Beaverhead National Forest. I have lived in Dillon for 4 years and have come to appreciate the quality of the wild, unspoiled lands that exist in this area of the State. I'm most familiar with the East Pioneer Mountains with their high rugged peaks and alpine meadows and lakes. My family and I have hiked and skied on the trails and climbed mountains in the area.

I concur with the Forest Service recommendation of 88,000 acres of wilderness forming the core of the East Pioneer Mountains.

The West Pioneers provide valuable wildlife habitat and are a well-known hunting and recreation area. Elk, moose, the rare grayling, and numerous nongame animals thrive in this roadless area. I urge the 150,000 acres of roadless lands be maintained in order to protect the scenic wildlife and receation values of the West Pioneers.

In the West Big Hole the Forest Service has proposed that a large portion of the area be protected as a family type recreation area. To complement this I urge wilderness of 70,000 to 75,000 acres be designated to form the center core of the West Big Hole. One of the major objections to the wilderness in the West Big Hole in 1980 is now removed as the Forest Service itself is proposing to remove most of the area from road building and logging.

The aforementioned areas on the Beaverhead National Forest provide watershed for the Big Hole River. Low waters in the late summer could be further aggravated by extensive logging of these forest lands jeopardizing the quality of this popular fishery resource.

In conclusion, I favor a statewide wilderness bill providing soft release of roadless areas. I urge legislation that will protect the uniqueness of the roadless areas I have mentioned, also taking into consideration the economic benefits of maintaining the quality recreation, hunting, fishing, watershed, and wildlife habitat which forest lands on the Beaverhead presently offer. Thank you.

Senator. MELCHER. I haven't seen Arnie Olsen come in. If you are there, Arnie—he may come in later.

Clint Rouse.

STATEMENT OF CLINT ROUSE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, STATE BANK, DILLON, MONT.

Mr. ROUSE. My name is Clint Rouse. I am currently executive vice president of the State Bank in Dillon, Mont. I have been there 9 years.

I was raised on a ranch in the West Big Hole which adjoins the proposed West Big Hole Wilderness area. I have been in southwestern Montana all my life. My family still owns this ranch.

I personally am very familiar with the West Big Hole from many viewpoints. I understand the viewpoints of adjoining landowners, hunters, fishermen, recreationists, area businessmen, and other interested parties.

You gentlemen have a difficult task in draftign the bill, I can understand your concern.

Because I have walked this country in the West Big Hole, rode horses in this country, and fished the high mountain lakes and streams, I respect its ruggedness and its beauty. No one wants to see this country ruined in any fashion; although, I feel a wilderness designation that would lock up the area to all but hikers is not the most beneficial use of this area.

The ranchers' grazing leases have to be respected and maintained. They have been good caretakers for many years and will continue to be good caretakers.

Some of the areas are suitable for logging; some aren't. The Forest Service should have the authority to identify and supervise proper timber harvest. Any that are harvested, they should be able to identify those. Under proper management we should be able to maintain the country's beauty and continue to have multiple use in the area.

However, I think the most important thing you can do is put an end to the costly and time-consuming studies of these areas. We certainly don't need a RARE III. We need a decision one way or the other so the effect on people, the landowners, the land users, and all the people that are concerned with the area, know what the designation is going to be.

And I thank the Montana congressional delegation for its remarks this morning concerning their desire to seek a resolution to this land use question. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rouse follows:]

Statement on
RARE II Hearing in Montana
To
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Public Lands Sub Committee
Anaconda, Montana
July 7, 1983

My name is Clint Rouse. I am Executive Vice President of State Bank in Dillon, Montana. I have been there nine years.

I was raised on a ranch in the West Big Hole. My Father still owns and operates this ranch which adjoins the proposed Wilderness Area for the West Big Hole.

I personally am very familiar with the West Big Hole from many viewpoints. I understand the viewpoints of adjoining land owners, hunters, fisherman, recreationists, area businessmen and other interested parties.

Because I have walked this country, rode horses in this country and driven vehicles in this country for over thirty years I have an opinion as to the most beneficial use for the most people. That use is multiple use. You may want to supervise this multiple use to insure prudent use, but wilderness is not the best use of this area.

However, the most important thing you can do is to end the costly and time consuming study of this and all other study areas in RARE I and RARE II. We do not need RARE III. We need a decision one way or the other so that these people that are most affected by the studies, the people that live and work in the area, and the people that use the area can resolve the matter once and for all.

There is enough information to make an intelligent decision now.

In fairness to local landowners, local land users and all taxpayers- - -please, no RARE III.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clinton W. Rouse

Clinton W. Rouse

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Renee Kratka, you are going to take the place of Jay Vest, is that correct?

Ms. KRATKA. I'm substituting for Jay Vest.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF RENEE KRATKA, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Ms. KRATKA. Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your work in trying to resolve this issue.

My name is Renee Kratka of Bozeman and I'm speaking as an interested citizen this morning.

The issues of wilderness designation and RARE II are complicated. However, it is important for us to cooperate and to move forward to resolve this question.

Having had training as a forester, I appreciate the need to harvest certain resources as well as the economy that depends on these activities. However, biological and economic commonsense must be followed.

The Gallatin Forest, in particular, contains semiarid slopes with relatively low timber production with deficit financial situations. To continue to harvest greater amounts of timber and to build more roads while losing tax dollars is not good business.

Ecologically, wilderness areas add quality to land used for harvest by maintaining the nature of the ocosystem. In order to insure long-term useful harvest, lands and their productivity should be studied and evaluated periodically. Soft release language for areas released from wilderness designation would provide for this.

The Gallatin Forest has been rated as the highest recreational use area in region I. Real profit is derived from this rich area in dollars and basic quality of life. It is crucial to preserve large areas of wilderness in order to maintain the system, wildlife, and the wild character of the area.

These qualities draw a large number of visitors that provide the economic base for many Montana areas. If these are destroyed or diminished, the visitors will go elsewhere.

Montana offers many resources some of which, with care, can be used and perpetuated. In size and quality, our greatest resources are the wild areas.

Please allow these to be utilized and protected through sound legislation.

Alternative W is a good compromise. Resource utilization, preservation, and continuation of the quality of our forests will be well served. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. That concludes this panel. Out next panel is Keith Olson, Joe McElwain, Jim Bentley, Nina Smith, Torger Oaas, Don Wozney, Ron Kelly, Don Allen, Fred Birdsall, Jay Mitchell, and Will Brooke.

I would also like to call Kerry Keyer on this panel. I would like to move him up from a later panel.

Bill Free is replacing Keith Olson. Bill.

STATEMENT OF BILL FREE, DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. FREE. My name is Bill Free. I am a rancher and independent logging contractor from Deer Lodge in Powell County. In both of my vocations I am concerned with the withdrawal of public lands from multiple use through the creation of additonal wilderness and the de facto wilderness created by the uncertainty of the RARE II land decisions.

With the ever-increasing demand for lumber, plywood, and the myriad of products made from wood fiber, I feel we cannot lock up our resources and continue to supply the needs of our country. As a rancher I know the need of harvesting any crop when it is ready. Since 80 percent of the merchantable trees in the Deer Lodge Forest are overmature it seems foolish to me to waste that resource by letting it die and be lost.

The Mountain Pine Beetle infestation is a very real threat and is even more so in a mature lodgepole pine stand. It is a matter of time until the overmature trees of the Deer Lodge National Forest are the target.

I feel we must pass a bill in Congress that will declare the RARE II studies are sufficient and release these lands for multiple use for timber harvest, mining, grazing, motorized recreation, and wildlife. This bill should be structured to prevent court challenges of these multiple uses by parties using the ninth circuit court decision to challenge management decisions on lands that RARE II advocated as nonwilderness.

In our area particularly, the closing of the Anaconda smelter and the Butte pit has created serious unemployment which we must not increase by forcing lumber processors to close because of an ever-shrinking timber base. I believe Montana has a very adequate wilderness system now and I suggest the following areas in my working area be returned to multiple management: 429, Dolus Lakes; 427, Storm Lake; 428, Flint Range; 609, Electric Peak; A-425, North Carp; B-425, North Carp; 426, Upper East Fork Elk Creek; and, 435, Fred Burr. Thank you for listening.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Joe McElwain.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH A. McELWAIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MONTANA POWER CO.

Mr. McELWAIN. Senator and members of the delegation, I appear here today on behalf of the Montana Power Co. and four other utilities operating in the Northwest. We have a great concern about the sufficiency question of the RARE II study, particularly as it affects the ongoing construction and necessity for the completion of the Colstrip project and the allied transmission associated therewith.

I would like to have my whole statement made a part of the record. I would also like to file for the record at this time an appeal filed yesterday in Missoula opposing the sufficiency of the EIS statement with respect to the transmission lines connecting the Garrison substation with the transmission at Taft in western Montana.

If this appeal is not very expeditiously taken care of it has some very serious effects upon the economy of the State of Montana. It is an appeal to try to stop through the RARE II sufficiency question.

The construction of this Bonneville line, which would make the interconnection with the Pacific Northwest, because there are—its routing goes through five study areas that have not been nominated for RARE II; but, if the sufficiency is still questioned, it could delay the construction of this line as much as 2 years.

I would like to point out just briefly the economic effect of such a delay. The construction of the line in Montana itself during the period 1983 and 1984 would have about 330 jobs lasting an average of 8 months with about 250 being local workers. In the years 1983, 1984, and 1985, approximately 600 jobs with an average of 12 months and at least 250 local workers. The direct payroll and the direct money that would be spent in Montana to contractors and others amounts to over $50 million during that period.

In addition, if this line is delayed, it could well mean that the Colstrip IV project would have to be phased out until we had some method of getting power to the Pacific Northwest from the project. And that job involves some 2,000 workers in Montana.

I point out to you that this particular project has been studied and approved on two previous occasions by the Federal Government, on September 21, 1979, in an EIS statement, and on August 18, 1981. I submit to you that it's time that the study period get over and we get on with this project in putting some people and continuing to have people work in the State of Montana.

I would only point out one last thing. Recently we let a contract for a pipe line going from Morel in this area to Cut Bank. And the morning that the contractor started out last Tuesday, there were over 250 people at the site wanting jobs. I think it's time we quit studying and get people back to work in Montana and create some jobs. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McElwain follows:]

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH A. McELWAIN
BEFORE THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
ON RARE II ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY
HEARING - JULY 7, 1983

My name is Joe McElwain. I am Chairman of the Board of the Montana Power Company. I am appearing,also, on behalf of the other owners of Colstrip Units 3 and 4; namely, Puget Sound Power and Light Company, Washington Water Power Company, Portland General Electric, and Pacific Power and Light Company.

I would like to address the delegation in support of legislation to declare an end to the RARE II process (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation that was completed by the Department of Agriculture as lead agency in January, 1979) and the Environmental Impact Statement as legally sufficient in Montana.

The five utilities for which I speak today are, at present, involved in the construction of two coal-fired generating units in Rosebud County, Montana, known as Colstrip Units 3 and 4. The total estimated cost of the project including transmission facilities will be 1.7 billion dollars. Colstrip 3 is scheduled for turbine roll on October 1, 1983 and for commercial operation by year-end, and Colstrip 4 is set for turbine roll on April 1, 1985, with commercial operation on July 1, 1985. The utilities have spent $1,231,800,000 through April 30, 1983, on the project. Overall, the two plants are seventy-eight percent complete, with eighty-eight percent of the utilities transmission system from Colstrip to Townsend also completed. To interconnect the Colstrip 3 and 4 project to BPA's transmission system, the Bonneville Power

Administration (BPA) is constructing a transmission line in western Montana. The BPA line construction from Townsend to Garrison to accommodate Unit 3 is on schedule. The remainder of the line from Garrison west is not so fortunate. A record of decision for construction of the line from Garrison west to Taft, along the so-called southern route, was issued May 23, 1983. Until April of 1981, BPA represented that the Garrison west, 500 KV transmission line, would be constructed prior to April 1, 1985. At that time BPA announced a six-month delay. Since April, 1981, however, the utilities have understood the BPA would make every reasonable effort to advance completion of the Garrison-Taft project from October 1, 1985 to July 1, 1985. The utilities have now reaffirmed the commercial operation date for Unit 4 as July 1, 1985, thus the availability of Unit 4 has been impacted by at least three months.

BPA and the Board of Natural Resources of the State of Montana entered into a cooperative agreement to study the preferred transmission line routing. As a result, the Board of Natural Resources, together with the Department of Natural Resources, conducted public hearings in Missoula on March 10-11, 1983 and thereafter the Board made its decision on May 6, 1983, basically agreeing with over 99 percent of the line route of BPA. Nevertheless, the BPA transmission project west of Garrison is threatened with possible further delay through court action as a result of the Ninth Circuit Court decision on the RARE II EIS. Clearly, the time has come to end study for study sake.

The RARE II EIS process in Montana presented many Montana citizens, groups, environmental concerns and industries the full and complete opportunity to voice their opinions on wilderness areas, resource development and utilization areas, and public land planning generally. In addition to the RARE II public input, each National Forest has had extensive public input on all manner of planning and development options. Every acre of public land has been studied and restudied. Further study can only be viewed as a means for implementing a public land non-use policy. Now that the final EIS has been finished we submit it is time to put a stamp of approval on that study so that proper, planned economic development can take place in this state.

Thirty percent of Montana's land area is owned by the Federal government. In any economic development process this factor always must be considered because there is relatively little area in Montana where what is done on federal lands will not affect major planning efforts on private and state lands. Governor Schwinden has made a firm commitment to economic development in this state. That program should not be stalemated by the uncertainty of federal land management policy decisions -- especially since public input in the RARE II study has been completed. Further, the final Federal EIS on the entire BPA powerline route was published by the BPA in July, 1979, which, augmented by Montana's study on the preferred and alternative routes, allowed extensive public input and has led to a reasoned decision of the final route.

The final route will encounter five RARE II areas, all of which have been recommended for nonwilderness in the President's final

report to Congress. These areas are known as Silver King (01424), Mt. Bushnell (01790), Sherry Peak (01791), South Siegel Cutoff (01795), and Stark Mountain (01800). If further study is required on the entire Montana RARE II process, obviously, the entire BPA and State public input processes, as well as the RARE II Process itself, will have been wasted. BPA, in conjunction with the State of Montana, took great care to site this line in an environmentally acceptable corridor.

Colstrip 3 and 4 have been no strangers to delay since we first filed our application on June 6, 1973. The project has been the most studied major development in Montana. The so-called study process built into our laws is not a model for planned economic development. Under the circumstances, any further delay, or even threat of delay, only exacerbates an already bad situation. The costs of delay must ultimately increase the cost of electric service. Thus, we have insisted at every level of hearing, planning and construction that impediments to the process are not in the interests of electric consumers. There are no cost effective management alternatives to completing construction of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 on schedule. Any further delay on the already impacted schedule would expose us to additional construction costs, potential contractor claims and inability to meet our projected power requirements.

We urge that at the earliest opportunity, legislation be enacted to clear up any doubts about the sufficiency of the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement in Montana.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Jim Bentley. Jim isn't here. Is Nina Smith? Nina Smith isn't here, either. Torger Oaas. Torger is not here. Don Wozney.

STATEMENT OF DON WOZNEY, WOZNEY LOGGING

Mr. WOZNEY. My name is Don Wozney from Wozney Logging in Deer Lodge and I contract for Louisiana Pacific. I'm for multiple use. I think everybody else speaks pretty much the same as I do so thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Ron Kelly.

STATEMENT OF RON KELLY, DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. KELLY. My name is Ron Kelly. I was born and raised in the Deer Lodge Valley on a ranch. I'm now employed by the First Security Bank in Deer Lodge.

I've enjoyed the forest lands in the Deer Lodge Valley all my life in the condition they have been in under multiple use. Around the turn of the century we had a lot of mining. There is now evidence of that mining in the forest lands. However, I don't think that it has ruined or detracted from the recreational properties of the forest.

I'm concerned about the economic impact of tourism and, therefore, would like to see the wilderness areas protected so that we can continue to have growth in the tourism industry. At the same time, the lumber industry is critical to our area. The farming and ranching has been a way of life and is also critical to our area.

Therefore, I think the area should be left for multiple use as it has been in the past. It should continue in the future. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Don Allen.

STATEMENT OF DON ALLEN, MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr. ALLEN. Senator Melcher and other members of the Montana congressional delegation, my name is Don Allen. I'm with the Montana Trade Association.

The copper kings have abdicated and Butte's gold and silver is struggling to stay alive. Oil and gas exploration and particular production offers the best hope of good paying jobs with the least negative impact on the environment.

In 1981 over 13,000 direct jobs in Montana are being filled in the petroleum industry with payroll of over $250 million. That's 1 out of every 16 workers in the State. Each rig employs 42 plus another 100 indirect jobs for each rig that's working.

One point I would like to make, and I think it's important, if Montana's drilling activities had declined from 1981 to 1983 at the same rate as the national average because of the high taxes and other considerations, today there would be 27 more rigs working in the State of Montana. That would mean 1,300 more jobs which to the Butte and Anaconda areas would seem like a lot today, and another 200 backup jobs plus 42 full-time production jobs to run the successful wells. That's one point I did want to make.

Montana is already having a difficult enough time and has the highest taxes on oil in the lower 48 States. We are not getting our share of the investment dollars and it's important, I think, to consider that in looking at other important areas which could be put off limits.

I would like to touch on a point on permanent release. I think the permanent release with the allowable exploration lands adjacent to the wilderness areas, the Montana poll that's referred to earlier did show an overwhelming number of people in Montana object to exploring wilderness areas. I don't think that's going to happen. But, also, that same poll showed 60 percent of the people think it's OK to explore in areas adjacent to wilderness areas.

One of the concerns we have in the forest involving this hearing today, because of the geographic makeup of the area, is the fact that the buffer zones created because of the additional class I area designation in the wilderness areas impose so many more acres off limits that it could be a very serious blow to the possible oil and gas exploration in this portion of the State.

I want to point out the oil and gas industry is not against wilderness, but we think the multiple-use rather than the single use is the best answer for the most people. Dr. Thorough, who is from Anaconda and spoke at the Western Governors Conference recently, I liked and agreed with one of his lines about the fact this country was not settled and made great by people like the lone ranger but came by wagon trains with people who helped each other out.

I think the multiple- use concept is really going to be a real challenge and I think it can be done and can be compatible with oil and gas and wildlife and the other types of uses that can be accomplished on the land. That's the challenge, not making it the easy way out.

Senator and other members, I urge you in this particular area to look very closely at the potential oil and gas exploration potential, what it can mean, before making the final decision.

Senator MELCHER. Fred Birdsall.

STATEMENT OF DR. E. F. BIRDSALL, PUBLIC LANDS COORDINATOR, CONOCO

Dr. BIRDSALL. I'm Fred Birdsall. Two days ago I told you alternative W is not a representative compromise. It's a total disregard of the corridor of petroleum potential starting from the Whitefish and Swan Ranges near Canada down to Idaho with the recommendation of Garfield Mountain, again, right in the middle of the Old West Trail. My written testimony further described individual specific petroleum conflicts along this chain; so, I now would like to turn to release language.

One major concern for further planning was to preview the mineral potential so you people would have a basis to make the decisions. In our testimony we are trying to give you the information. Because of the leasing restrictions, it is unlikely we can give you much more in the future. The future need for study categories now being largely gone, there is no reason to waffle further.

Testimony has been almost unanimous against RARE III; but, the waffling of the potential for future options looms as an issue

important to arbitration of the forest boundaries themselves, sort of a RARE II-and-a-half, if you wish. The RARE II-and-a-half advocates now want an option on future bites.

You cannot bake an apple pie if someone keeps an option on the future bites of your apples. If you want Montana to enjoy apple pie, you have to release the apples. Let me explain.

Hard release does not mean development. It only means land status as it existed prior to the wilderness study identification. Hard release permits the Forest Service to decide through planning if, when, and where development can occur. It gives a climate for planning and investment.

Soft rlease binds planning for re-study. Where land planning is restrained the future is cloudy and industry cannot secure long-term commitments.

Western Montana is a geological frontier with exciting energy potential. You can encourage or frustrate Montana's economic future through the position you take on release language. Our potential here is perhaps unique because it underlies high concentration of study areas. Here, perhaps more than any other State, industry must have a clear signal of access certainty before committing to the extraordinary expenses of exploration.

I urge you to take a bold and responsible position not only in your election for wilderness, but also a clean, hard release of lands not selected. Testimony will be continued in Great Falls on Saturday. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Birdsall follows:]

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN
FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN THE PROPOSED MONTANA WILDERNESS

Anaconda, MT July 7, 1983

Dr. E. F. Birdsall, Public Lands Coordinator, CONOCO

My name is Fred Birdsall, and I am Public Lands Coordinator for Conoco. Two days ago I testified to you concerning Conoco's oil and gas interests in wilderness planning for the northwestern portion of the state. Today we discuss the southwestern portion.

One of our areas of interest is from the town of Melrose south through the Clark Canyon Reservoir and along the Tendoy Mountains into Idaho. This corridor probably has deep overthrust potential. RARE II unit 1961, Garfield Mountain, lies in the path of that corridor. Although it was recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service, Alternative W is calling for its reconsideration. On the basis of geologic potential we ask that you continue to eliminate it. Italian Peaks 1945 could be dismissed as well on the basis of similar geologic potential, though perhaps in that case rugged topography is its own best protection and it will remain unexplored whether designated wilderness or not. Indeed the same could be said for many Montana wilderness candidates. The relatively expensive access into the rugged terrain of most of them, combined with strict environmental protection stipulations, precludes exploration of any but the most promising and accessible fairways. You may be sure when we request multiple use of a planning unit that the economics have not been lightly taken.

Further east, the Yellowstone River south of Livingston follows a small but prospectively valuable sedimentary basin. The eastern

slopes of the Gallatin Mountains lie in that sedimentary basin. We believe the eastern boundaries of Further Planning Units Gallatin Divide 1548 and Hyalite H 1548 should be redefined to exclude the prospectively valuable portions.

The RARE II Further Planning category was established among other reasons to provide opportunity to review the mineral potential of wilderness candidate lands in order that Congress could make informed decisions on wilderness selections. Through these testimonies industry is attempting to provide that information. Given the leasing restrictions now placed on these wilderness candidate lands it is not likely that we will be able to give you much new information in the future. The need to retain planning and study categories in the future is largely gone. Thus in addition to the arbitration of wilderness boundaries, equally important is the clear and unfettered release of those lands not judged to be wilderness. I want to spend my remaining few minutes on the importance of that issue.

Oil exploration is incremental. Each new seismic line and exploratory well adds to and changes to some degree the geologic understanding of an area. Indeed one man's dry hole may be a signpost to the next man's discovery. Deliberate and orderly progress can be expected so long as access is certain. The Western Overthrust is a prime example of this. Several hundred dry holes preceeded the Wyoming discoveries, yet today that is one of the most active onshore exploration provinces in America. Two reasons confine that development to a relatively small area. One is the insufficient time to apply the newer exploration techniques learned there to a larger area. The second is the withdrawal of large portions of land on the overthrust trend

from access.

It would seem logical that an area, once determined to be non-wilderness, would revert to multiple use. Yet a battle is being waged today in the development of a Wyoming Wilderness Bill on whether those non-wilderness units are to be freed from the yokes of perpetual restudy. The issue is called hard release versus soft release. Note that release does not mean development. Hard release simply means that lands are returned to the management status they held prior to their identification for wilderness study. No development can occur on any released lands until all applicable environmental study and permit requirements have been met. Soft release is temporary, for a decade or so, with the Forest Service obliged to periodically reconsider the same lands again for wilderness designation. Uses are restrained so as not to degrade the wilderness values. A bizarre system of defacto wilderness is created with companies unable to secure long term commitment to exploration and development programs.

Western Montana is a geologic frontier. Its energy potential looks exciting. Given time and opportunity our incremental exploration processes can evaluate that potential. The Montana Wilderness Bill is an opportunity to frustrate that evaluation or to encourage it through the position you take on release language. If you condemn non-wilderness units to successive restudy for wilderness you perpetuate a climate of uncertainty under which no mining or oil company can logically operate. On the other hand you can provide for clear and decisive release language of non-wilderness lands to multiple use. You can encourage the development of Montana's resources, you can establish a vital and healthy economy, you can expand the revenue base, you can assist the welfare of both this state and the nation.

Western Montana's situation is somewhat unique as compared to other states. We have an extremely high geologic potential plus a high concentration of forest study areas in the heartland of the overthrust belt. Here, perhaps more than in other areas of the United States, industry must have a clear signal of access certainty before committing to the extraordinary expenses of risky overthrust exploration. I urge this delegation to take a bold and responsible position on hard release language in the development of our Montana Wilderness Bill.

Senator MELCHER. Jay Mitchell.

STATEMENT OF JAY MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you. My name is Jay Mitchell. I'm a native of Montana and I grew up and went to high school in Deer Lodge, Mont. I'm here today as chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association. I welcome the opportunity to appear before the Montana delegation concerning the RARE II bill for this State.

We believe the time has come to resolve the issue once and for all. We have urged Congress to adopt a balanced bill which would satisfy the multiple users of the public land. We believe such a balance can be achieved in this legislation.

RMOGA's position has three basic components. First, areas should be explored for their mineral potential before being locked away into a highly restrictive single use management prescription. Second, balanced wilderness legislation can only be achieved with the permanent release of lands determined to be unsuitable for wilderness. Third, the continual wilderness study of RARE II lands must be terminated, and the legal sufficiency of the RARE II process must be statutorily determined.

First, an area's subsurface resources are potentially as important as an area's surface resources. A recent study by a team of geologists for the U.S. Geological Survey assessed the undiscovered oil and gas resources in both on-shore and off-shore provinces. One of the areas selected for special study was the Wyoming-Utah-Idaho thrust belt.

This thrust belt extends northward into Montana through many of the designated wilderness areas as well as the areas under consideration for wilderness. The geologists pointed out that the oil and gas resources were not uniformly distributed in contrast to what was asserted by the 1982 Wilderness Society report.

The USGS demonstrated the tremendous impact these relatively small areas have on the total United States undiscovered resources of oil and gas. The acreages represented by this study area is 1.8 percent of the total U.S. sedimentary basis. Yet, USGS has stated

that 34 percent of the conventional resources of undiscovered oil and gas may be found here.

The most critical component, however, of any balanced wilderness legislation is language providing for the permanent release of lands determined to be unsuitable for wilderness designation. It continues to puzzle us that there is so much controversy over this viewpoint, that is, the permanent designation of some lands as wilderness and the permanent release of nonwilderness lands from continual wilderness study.

Lands placed into wilderness designation remain so in perpetuity until Congress determines otherwise. It seems only reasonable that lands suitable for wilderness also be returned to multiple use management in perpetuity until congress determines otherwise. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mitchell follows:]

My name is Jay Mitchell, I am Public Lands Coordinator for the Atlantic Richfield Company. I am here today as the Chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, known as RMOGA. RMOGA is a trade association representing hundreds of companies and individuals involved in all phases of oil and gas activities throughout the Rocky Mountain States. Our membership is diverse, and includes major companies as well as small and medium sized independent operators active in this region. These operators help to employ some 90,000 people in jobs directly affiliated with the oil and gas industry, and the oil and gas resources produced in this region amounts to nearly $2 billion in revenues to the Federal Government in oil and gas rentals, royalties, and windfall profits taxes. This does not include income taxes, or state and local taxes. We therefore feel that continued access to federal lands for mineral exploration and development is of paramount importance, not only to our members, but to the local, state, regional, and national economy as well.

We welcome the opportunity to appear before the Montana Delegation concerning a RARE II bill for this state. We believe the time has come to resolve the RARE II issue once and for all.

We have appeared before Congress on several occasions over the past two years on RARE II wilderness legislation. We have urged Congress to adopt a balanced bill which would satisfy the multiple users of the public land. We have stressed the need for protection of special, environmentally-sensitive lands, while advocating the return to multiple use of less sensitive lands, which are still subject to restrictions and stipulations to protect the environment from unnecessary operational impacts. We believe such a balance can be achieved in this legislation.

RMOGA's position has three basic components:

1. Areas should be explored for their mineral potential before being locked away into a highly restrictive single-use management prescription;

2. Balanced wilderness legislation can only be achieved with the permanent release of lands determined to be unsuitable for wilderness;

3. The continual wilderness study of RARE II lands must be terminated, and the legal sufficiency of the RARE II process must be statutorily affirmed.

Let me elaborate on RMOGA's viewpoint concerning wilderness legislation. We are not stridently opposed to the designation of wilderness areas as some would like to believe. We recognize that there clearly are lands which are sensitive and unique, and which qualify for special management and protection. However, we believe there are two things which must be taken into account in the determination of what type of protective management is warranted or required for these lands.

First, an area's subsurface resources are potentially as important as an area's surface resources. We believe that an area's mineral resources should be explored and produced prior to placing it in a highly restrictive status. This was also the approach taken by Congress for designated wilderness areas when it provided, in the 1964 Wilderness Act, a 20-year window for mineral exploration and development before permanently withdrawing these lands from access.

A recent study by a team of geologists for the U.S. Geological Survey assessed the undiscovered oil and gas resources in both onshore and offshore provinces. Two areas selected for special study were the Wyoming-Utah-Idaho Thrust Belt and the Beaufort Sea, areas selected because they are frontier areas widely believed to have significant oil and gas potential. The Thrust Belt extends northward into Montana through many of the designated wilderness areas, as well as areas under consideration for wilderness. The geologists point out that oil and gas resources are not uniformly distributed, in contrast to what was asserted by a 1982 Wilderness Society report, which, not surprisingly, concluded that because of the uniform distribution of oil and gas, designated wilderness areas contained nominal oil and gas resource potential. Citing the Thrust Belt as an example of an area which had no obvious potential only a few years ago, the U.S.G.S. concluded that:

> "the right combination of (1) thick sedimentary sections, (2) rich and mature source rocks, (3) excellent reservoirs, and (4) adequate trapping features can transform previously nonprospective provinces into highly prospectively ones.

More importantly, the U.S.G.S. demonstrated the tremendous impact these relatively small areas have on the total U.S. undiscovered resources of oil and gas, by showing that only 1.5% of the total U.S. sedimentary area contains 18% of the total U.S. conventional resources of undiscovered oil and 16% of the total undiscovered gas resources.

Congress is now faced with decisions as to what is the highest and best use of the RARE II lands under consideration in this legislation. In order to determine the best use of this land, however, the Congress must have all the relevant information about the land's resources -- both surface and subsurface.

If the mineral resources are unknown because exploration has been prohibited, then a critical component to sound decision-making is blatently lacking.

The second factor which should be taken into account in determining what type of land management prescription is best for these areas, is that a wilderness designation is not the only way an area's surface resources can be protected from harm. Existing statutes, including National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Forest Management Act, the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and scores of others, provide superlative protection for all of our nation's environmental resources.

In addition, the oil and gas industry has proven that our operations are entirely compatible with the environment. Operational techniques minimize the area and amount of disturbance, and rehabilitation capabilities have reached such a level of competence that the impacts of oil and gas operations are virtually, if not entirely, unnoticeable, and in all cases temporary in nature.

It is our firm belief that the lands proposed for wilderness designation in any legislation should first be evaluated for their mineral potential prior to their designation as wilderness. We also recognize that, coupled with industry's technological capabilities to operate safely in environmentally-sensitive areas, the plethora of environmental laws, regulations, and policies make wilderness designation unnecessary to provide adequate protection for the environment.

The most critical component, however, of any balanced wilderness legislation is language providing for the <u>permanent</u> release of lands determined to be unsuitable for wilderness designation. It continues to puzzle us that there is

so much controversy over this viewpoint, i.e., the permanent designation of some lands as wilderness, and the permanent release of non-wilderness lands from continual wilderness study. We are steadfast and emphatic on this point, as there can be no compromise if this balance is not realized. Lands placed into wilderness designation remain so in perpetuity until Congress determines otherwise; it seems only reasonable that lands unsuitable for wilderness also be returned to multiple use management in perpetuity until Congress determines otherwise. While we surely recognize that Congress can alter the statutory classification of any lands at any time, we believe some certainty for management of these areas must be provided in the interim for the many users of these public lands.

Which brings up my third major point of the need for legal and factual sufficiency language to put an end to RARE II. With more than a decade spent on studying RARE II lands for wilderness, the time has come to recognize the wealth of information we now have on these areas, and to make some positive decisions.

There is no justification for the continual study and re-study of roadless areas in the National Forest System. These studies are a tremendous drain on the federal budget. We believe it serves no purpose to study these lands as an objective in and of itself, rather than as a means towards an end. The end, in our opinion, is the decision by Congress that some areas are worthy of wilderness protection, based on past wilderness study through RARE II, and some are not. Those that are not, should be immediately and permanently returned to multiple use management, so that the Forest Service can get on with the business of managing these lands and their resources.

We believe there have been enough statewide, regional, and national roadless area reviews conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. We encourage the Subcommittee to analyze the significant disadvantages of a protracted wilderness study program which is being conducted in the absence of statutory, permanent release and sufficiency language, and to take definitive action to end these studies and the uncertainty associated with them.

Finally, we would like to point out that there are already 14 million acres of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain States, and 3.2 million acres in Montana alone. In our opinion, this extensive amount of acreage provides a superlative and diverse wilderness system with easy access for Montanans and other Westerners. Coupled with the millions of acres of national parks, wildlife refuges, and other preservation classifications, the amount of land in Montana already withdrawn from multiple use for environmental protection is staggering. We can therefore see no reason to make substantial additions to the wilderness system in Montana.

In conclusion, RMOGA encourages the Montana Delegation to develop a reasonable wilderness bill for Montana, which resolves RARE II through permanent release language, which includes legal and factual sufficiency language, and which recognizes that the best wilderness system is not necessarily the largest one which can be assembled.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, for the opportunity to present our views on this legislation.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Will Brooke.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM M. BROOKE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

Mr. BROOKE. Thank you Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, and Congressman Marlenee for holding these hearings.

My name is William Brooke. I'm with the Montana Stockgrowers and the Montana Public Lands Council.

We submitted a general statement in Missoula and adhere to that general statement.

I am here today on behalf of the Willow Creek Stockgrowers Association. That association runs livestock on the Tobacco Root Mountains or in that area.

The Forest Service recommended 60,000 acres for nonwilderness in the Tobacco Roots and 40,000 acres for further study. I understand today that the conservationists and the alternative have presented 60,000 acres for the Tobacco Roots recommending that area for more wilderness. This area is not a wilderness.

I was born and raised in that area. In fact, we had water rights to First Lake or Hollowtop Lake in the Tobacco Roots on the Beaverhead side. As a youth we put in a cement dam on Hollowtop Lake to control the irrigation flows during the summer. During that time we stored our cement in outhouses. We cooked our food on cement fire pits and we ate out food on picnic tables. The area might be primitive, but it's not wilderness.

In fact, the demand is all over the place. There are fences throughout the Beaverhead side and on the back side of the Sheridan side and Jeep trails throughout the area both for the management of livestock. There are two major roads. On the fourth page I prepared a map of the proposed wilderness areas that some people want. You can see the two major roads have been cherry stemmed and it almost dissects the Beaverhead part of that proposed further study area.

From on top of Hollowtop Mountain, the highest peak, you can look down into both the roads, see an old tungsten mine on the south side and numerous mines on the north and east sides. There are patented mining claims all over. You can observe those everywhere. There are private in holdings, cabins in many places that have been cherry stemmed by the boundaries and private lands.

And as you note—it doesn't show up on your map but the map I submit will show it. Private lands have been excluded for the most part by the boundaries; but, there are two sections of privately owned land within the wilderness area and that will be evident in the map I submit.

The biggest problem with the Tobacco Roots is they are an island. There is not natural buffer zone and there is civilization on all sides. There is no real visual solitude. I agree it's a good hiking area; but, it should not be protected with wilderness.

I just want to make one more short comment and that's about soft release. If you are going to have soft release, you ought to have

soft wilderness. That may seem ridiculous but I think soft release is ridiculous.

Finally, the comment about the Crazy Mountains being part of Jim Watt's sell-out plan, that in and of itself is crazy. That was not proposed by James Watt. There are tremendous private inholdings in that area checkerboarded. The Forest Service was ordered to inventory the areas and did so and dropped the Crazy Mountains from sale. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Brooke follows:]

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MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 1679 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM M. BROOKE
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS
ANACONDA, MONTANA JULY 7, 1983

MY NAME IS WILLIAM BROOKE, I AM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL , AN ORGANIZATION OF LIVESTOCK OPERATORS WHO UTILIZE THE PUBLIC LANDS FOR GRAZING LIVESTOCK. ALONG WITH THE MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, WE HAVE SUBMITTED OUR GENERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT WILDERNESS AT THE MISSOULA HEARING. TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE SITE SPECIFIC ON BEHALF OF RANCHERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS HEARING.

THE WILLOW CREEK STOCK ASSOCIATION, WHICH UTILIZES THE TOBACCO ROOT MOUNTAINS HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY WILDERNESS DESIGNATION IN THE TOBACCO ROOT MOUNTAINS. ALTHOUGH CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE RECOMMENDED THE TOBACCO ROOTS FOR WILDERNESS, THE FOREST SERVICE DID NOT IN RARE II. THE FOREST SERVICE DID RECOMMEND ABOUT 60,000 ACRES FOR NON-WILDERNESS AND 40,000 FOR FURTHER STUDY. IT IS THE FURTHER STUDY AREA (B-1013 BEAVERHEAD AND DEERLODGE FOREST) THAT CONSTITUTES THE AREA FOR DISAGREEMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I WAS RAISED ON A RANCH NEAR THE TOBACCO ROOT MOUNTAINS. IN FACT WE HAD WATER RIGHTS

TO HOLLOWTOP LAKE WHICH EXISTS IN THE FURTHER STUDY AREA. AS A YOUTH, I HELPED TO INSTALL A CEMENT HEADGATE ON THAT LAKE TO BETTER CONTROL THE WATER FLOW FOR IRRIGATIONAL PURPOSES. DURING THE TIME WE CONSTRUCTED THAT HEADGATE, WE STORED OUR CEMENT IN A NEARBY OUTHOUSE, COOKED OUR OWN FOOD CEMENT GRILLS AND ATE AT PICNIC TABLES. ALTHOUGH THE AREA HAS DEFINITE PRIMITIVE CHARACTERISTICS, IT IS NOT A WILDERNESS.

THERE ARE PRESENTLY FENCES IN THE FURTHER STUDY AREA TO CONTROL LIVESTOCK AS WELL AS JEEP TRAILS ON WHICH RANCHERS TRAVEL TO DELIVER SALT AND CHECK THEIR LIVESTOCK.

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR ROADS INTO THE HEART OF THE TOBACCO ROOTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CHERRY STEMMED BY THE PRESENT FURTHER PLANNING BOUNDARIES. FROM MT. HOLLOWTOP, THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE RANGE, BOTH OF THESE ROADS CAN BE EASILY OBSERVED ALONG WITH A TUNGSTEN MINE TO THE SOUTH, A GOLD MINE TO THE WEST AND SEVERAL OTHER MINING SITES MANY OF WHICH ARE PATENTED MINING CLAIMS. YOU WILL ALSO NOTE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL CABIN SITES AND PRIVATE INHOLDINGS WITHIN THE FURTHER STUDY AREA.

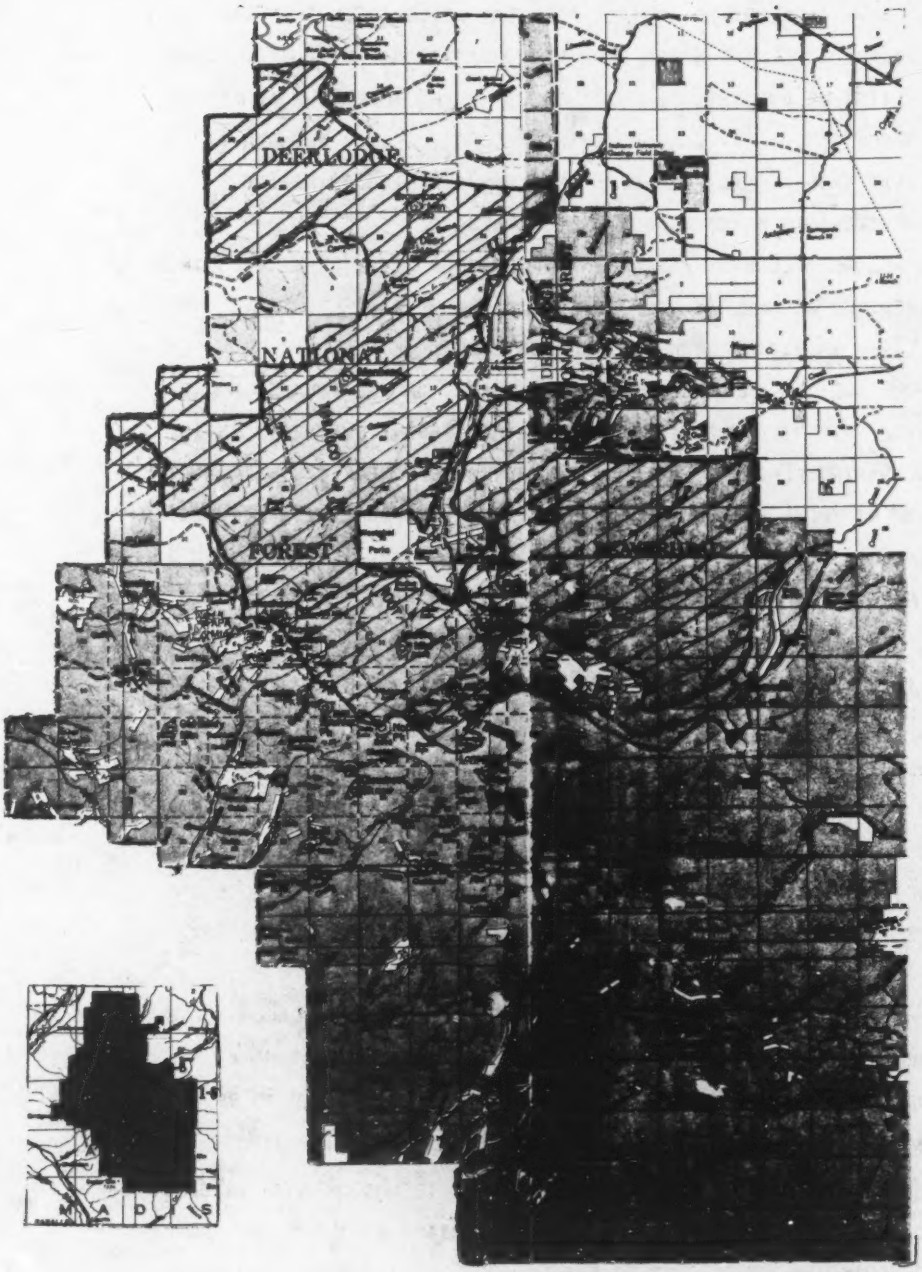
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WITH THE TOBACCO ROOTS IS THAT IT IS AN ISLAND SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY CIVILIZATION. THERE IS NO NATURAL BUFFER ZONE AND ITS SIZE DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO SOLITUDE, VISUAL OR OTHERWISE. FROM ALMOST ANY POINT, ONE CAN SEE THE IMPRINT OF MAN EITHER OF THE PRESENT OR FROM THE PAST.

I AGREE WITH THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY THAT THE TOBACCO ROOTS ARE A FINE HIKING AND CAMPING AREA. THE FISHING AT MANY OF THE LAKES IS SOME OF THE BEST. BUT IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE MADE INTO A WILDERNESS TO PRESERVE THESE QUALITIES. THE TIMBER IN THE AREA IS MOSTLY LODGE POLE PINE. IT IS NOT OF MUCH INTEREST TO THE TIMBER COMPANIES BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL RANCHERS FOR BUILDING FENCE AND TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR FIREWOOD.

I RESPRECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THIS COMMITTEE UPHOLD THE FOREST SERVICE DECISION FOR NONWILDERNESS IN A-1013 AND RECOMMEND NONWILDERNESS FOR THE FURTHER PLANNING AREA B-1013.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ON THE TOBACCO ROOT MOUNTAINS.

MIDDLE MOUNTAIN TOBACCO ROOTS



Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Kerry Keyser.

STATEMENT OF KERRY KEYSER, MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KEYSER. Thank you, Senator Melcher and members of the Montana delegation. I'm Representative Kerry Keyser to the Montana House of Representatives. I'm from Ennis and my district is Madison and Beaverhead Counties, now Madison and part of Gallatin County.

I know it's very hard to express one's self in 3 or 5 minutes on such an important issue as we are discussing today; but, in reality it takes only seconds to ask when do we have enough wilderness. Some say never; that we will continue to make everything wilderness. Others take the exact opposite and say we shouldn't have any. I say right now in the areas we are discussing here at this meeting, the areas of the Beaverhead and the Gallatin and the Deer Lodge National Forests, we have enough.

Specifically, Mr. Brooke talked about the Tobacco Roots. In no way should the Tobacco Roots ever be even considered as a total wilderness area. With some 6.5 million plus acres being considered under RARE II and with the present updated not figure of a total wilderness area in the State of Montana being considered of 1,606,000 acres, that's a grand total, that's mandated by you in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the other under the RARE II recommendation and the other under the future planning for wilderness area.

Montana now has in place over 5 million acres of single-use land. Now, if we don't resolve this question now as soon as possible, how in God's name can the Forest Service continue to prepare and issue forest plans? How will forest research users be assured of continuity of use for the economic opportunity to forest lands?

Montanans have spent 6 years—6 years—responding to this issue and nothing has been resolved. I think, gentlemen, 6 years is even plenty for Congress. We have lost taxes. We have lost jobs not to mention a reduction in grazing permits by the ranchers plus the impact that we have on weed control.

Let's talk just shortly about motorized recreation. It's not permitted at all. Even though an older couple—and I have many of them in my area and we ride against the mountains in the area designated of Jack Creek—an older couple may want to go into the forest on existing roads to take in the beauty of the scenery; but, due to age or health, this is totally denied them and that couple has to travel farther from home for recreation even though it is out his or her back door that they can go out of into this land.

Let me tell you this land is for everybody, not just the backpackers and not just the healthy. It is for everybody that can go in and enjoy this. So with wilderness designation that ceases.

A strong, healthy person cannot cover the acres we have set aside for them in his whole lifetime.

I want it understood I am not at all for opening up existing wilderness to exploration at all, none whatsoever. But I do want land that isn't wilderness to be available for the use that the lands were

intended. We've waited long enough, gentlemen, and I think no more studies. I would like to see you take some immediate affirmative action and I wish to thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. That concludes this panel. I want to call the next panel so they can be up here, but we are going to take a 5-minute break.

Joe Ferguson, John McGinnis, John Chaffin, Owen Bentley, Elaine Olstead, Judy Rue, Sherm Anderson, Frank Waldbilling, Don Tamcke, and Bud Wohlman.

Judy, we're going to let you start. You may have to trun the microphone on.

STATEMENT OF JUDY RUE, SWEET GRASS COUNTY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Ms. RUE. I'm not sure I can handle this, being the first one on the panel. I guess that's the choice of being a woman.

Elain Olstead couldn't be here today but she asked me to convey to you a message and I'm sure she'll submit written testimony. She and her husband are on their way to the mountains with their sheep so they absolutely couldn't make it today. She just wanted me to convey they feel that we have enough wilderness in Montana and they would like to get on with the process of being able to graze their sheep in the mountains without all those studies and problems they've been having in the past.

Senator Melcher, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to address you today. My name is Judy Rue and I have been a resident of McLeod, Mont., for 12 years and I am a native Montanan with a ranching background.

Today, I have been asked to represent the Sweet Grass County Preservation Association, a group of ranchers in Sweet Grass County concerned with the preservation, protection, and improvement of their way of life, agricultural business, and property rights.

The membership strongly urges the resolution of the RARE II issue immediately. As permit holders for sheep and cattle grazing within the Gallatin National Forest, we are directly affected by the decisions made by forest plans. Our livelihood depends on the assured continued use and management of forest lands in their present status.

Having almost 1 million acres of designated wilderness at our back door—the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness—we feel we have firsthand knowledge of working within the wilderness system. While sheep and cattle permits have not been abolished entirely, we find they are being reduced and restrictions are being put on them to the point where it is no longer economically feasible to hold the permits.

In the early 1900's, about 100 bands of sheep grazed our mountains; today there are three. West Granite County at that time was the largest wool-producing area in the world; today we're probably the smallest.

At a time when our economy is struggling to survive, we strongly suggest that the addition of more single-use land is not in the best interest of us in Sweet Grass County or to Montanans in general.

We very definitely do not feel the Crazy Mountains are a candidate for wilderness, nor do we want them designated as wilderness. The checkerboard private and Forest Service ownership, if for no other reason, should preclude it from being added to the wilderness system.

We need to be assured of the continued use, management, recreation, and economic opportunities that nonwilderness management affords us. We, in Sweet Grass County, depend on our national forest lands not only for grazing livestock, but for timber sales, mineral exploration, and recreation. All these aspects of the forest are needed for us to maintain our economic stability and continue our way of life.

We ask the committee to act responsibly to resolve the RARE II issue immediately and specifically provide for the release of these lands not identified for wilderness study.

Let us get on with the management of these national forest lands as they are intended: For the use of all the people. We furthermore ask the committee not to include any more lands in the wilderness preservation system. We feel it is not in our best interests agriculturally, or in the best interests of Montanans. Thank you.

I also have a statement that the Sweet Grass Recreation Association sent along. Could I read that, also? It's very short.

Senator MELCHER. Yes; please.

Ms. RUE [reading]:

Senator Melcher, members of the committee, the Sweet Grass County Recreation Association is a nonprofit organization of recreationists in Sweetgrass County. We would like to take this opportunity to address the RARE II issue. As snowmobilers, bikers, hikers, boaters, we feel we represent a broad aspect of recreation use of our forest lands.

It is important that the RARE II issue be resolved immediately and lands not identified for wilderness study be released and managed so that we can be assured of the recreational and economic opportunities. Montana's natural resources are the backbone of our economy. Without the ability to use them prudently, we stand to lose the jobs and the way of life that are very precious to us.

The 1 million acres of designated wilderness at our back door, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, our recreational opportunities are already severely limited. We no longer have any area open to us for snowmobiling and there are very limited opportunities for four-wheeling and biking.

We urge this committee to act immediately to release all land back to the Forest Service so they can continue preparing and issuing normal forest plans. Furthermore, we feel it is not in our best interest to add more land to the national wilderness system. We don't want any more wilderness in Montana. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Judy.

Frank Waldbillig.

STATEMENT OF FRANK WALDBILLIG, CHAIRMAN, GRANITE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. WALDBILLIG. Senator Melcher and members of the congressional delegation, this is the testimony of the Board of County Commissioners of Granite County given by Frank Waldbillig, chairman, P.O. Box B, Philipsburg.

I've been a resident of Granite County for 58 years, a taxpayer for 40 years, engaged in ranching for 40 years, engaged in ranching for 40 years and I've been engaged in the real estate business for 20 years. I've been a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Granite County for 20 years.

This is testimony regarding study areas 1-428, Race Track Peak area.

To Senator John Melcher and members of the committee: A portion of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area is situated in Granite County. We feel that the area is properly designated and we enjoy it.

However, the nature of study area 1-428 near Philipsburg does not lend itself well to a wilderness designation. The area is scarcely 3 miles east of the corporate boundaries of the town of Philipsburg.

The area has been prospected and contains patented mining claims. It also contains roads and has been used for logging operations for the last 100 years.

We are particularly concerned about discouraging or eliminating mining exploration since the west boundary of the study area borders the extensively mineralized Philipsburg Mining District. With recent interest in mining in Granite County, we would like to see this area remain open.

We also feel that the potential for timber production and oil and gas exploration cannot be ignored.

These lands are being currently managed intelligently and effectively by the U.S. Forest Service. We feel this arrangement should be allowed to continue.

Because study area 1-428 does not meet the criteria for wilderness designation, we feel that it should not be recommended for further study. It should be released immediately for the management of all resources.

Sincerely, Board of County Commissioners of Granite County, Frank Waldbillig, chairman.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Frank.

Don Tamcke.

STATEMENT OF DON TAMCKE, DEER LODGE VALLEY, MONT.

Mr. TAMCKE. Senator Melcher and members of the congressional delegation, I want to thank you for inviting us here.

My name is Donald Tamcke, I live in the Deer Lodge Valley on a ranch which is a partnership between my brother and I. We've raised two families and employ, year-round, about four other people.

My primary interest is in study area 1-428, or the Pioneer Mountains which we join for about 3½ miles. On study area in the Pioneer Mountains, we have five dams that are on Forest Service land. We have had permits for these dams. We also have a grazing permit on Forest Service ground that would join this study area.

These dams are called high mountain dams. They consist of Mountain Bend Lake, Goat Lake, Carruthers Lake, Elliot Lake, and Upper Elliot Lake. They are our main water supply, especially for the later part of the year, for our ranch where we raise irrigated hay and grain and have a livestock operation.

I have a little document here that I'd like to have the opportunity to read to this committee. It states:

State of Montana, County of Deer Lodge, to all whom this may concern—this is one for one of our dams and when it was taken up. Our place has been put together to make one larger ranch now. This is one part of the ranch—be it known that I, Inez C. Elliot, Race Track, in the county and state, do hereby publish and declare as

a legal notice to all the world that I have a legal right to the use, possession and control, and claims 500 flowing inches of waters of Mount Powell Lake or Upper Elliot Lake in said county and territory for irrigating and other purposes;

That the special purpose for which said water is intended to be used and the place of intent use is to draw waters from said lake by ditches and to turn it into a channel of Dempsey Creek and to reclaim the same and to use for irrigation of lands of said Inez C. Elliot;

That I have taken said water out of, diverted it from said lake by means of a ditch or cut and dam, which said ditch or cut is 36 inches by 72 inches in size, carrying or conducting 500 inches of water from said lake;

Said ditch taps and diverts the water from said lake at a point upon its bank and runs in a direction emptying into the ditch belonging to said Inez C. Elliot, taken from the channel of Dempsey Creek from the ranch of Mrs. Bell, thence to run in an easterly direction upon the lands belonging to said Inez C. Elliot, situated upon and near Dempsey Creek.

Thence running or to run to and upon said described lands and through said lands, if I so desire, to any requestive point of final discharge;

That I appropriate and took said waters on the 14th day of August, A.D., 1895, by means of said ditch and cut and dam;

That I also hereby claim said ditch is a right of way and therefore, aforesaid water by its conveyance, or to be conveyed from said point of appropriation to said lands or points of final discharge;

Also, the right of location upon any lands of any dams, flues, reservations constructed or to be constructed by me in the appropriating of said use of said waters;

I also claim the right to keep and repair and to enlarge said means of waters appropriated at any time, and the right to dispose of this said right, water, ditch or said appurtenances in part or whole at any time.

Claimed and same all singularly and upon all the laws, national and state, and rulings and decisions therein in the matter of water rights, together with all singular amenities and appropriations there belonging to or appropriations to accommodate the same.

Witnessed by hand, Dempsey, Montana, 14th day of August, 1895. Affidavit sworn in September 3rd, 1895, before a notary public, Deer Lodge County, Montana; filed September 3rd, 1895, A.D.

So this has been part of our ranch for about 100 years and I think it's a little late to be making it into a wilderness area. If this is made into a roadless wilderness area, it will cut the supply of our water off where we will not be able to maintain and do the upkeep work on those dams.

The five dams have all about the same type of claims made for them. When this wilderness study started, we worked for the Forest Service for 12 years to get permission to rebuild the dam on this lake. Last year I finally got it through.

Senator MELCHER. You were on 1-428, are you not?

Mr. TAMCKE. Yes.

Senator. MELCHER. OK.

Mr. TAMCKE. I think these lands should be multiple use and kept that way so everyone can use them, whether it's for logging, watershed, grazing, recreation. And I believe that we should keep the Forest Service in the multiuse business, not in just strictly a wilderness area. I thank you.

Senator MELCHER. I just want to know, the water right, is it still a valid water right?

Mr. TAMCKE. Yes, I still use it. I built a new dam on there last year, sir.

Senator MELCHER. You better note that 1895 is prior to the note of the Forest Service and is a priority.

Mr. TAMCKE. I have the rights on five of these lakes and my neighbor has two.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Let me ask, too, are you talking about the Flint Range or Pioneers?

Mr. TAMCKE. Well, Flint, just west of Deer Lodge there. Do you have a map there to look at?

Mr. WILLIAMS. You had mentioned the Pioneers, but you're referring to the Flint?

Mr. TAMCKE. Flint, excuse me. Well, some call them——

Mr. WILLIAMS. OK.

Senator MELCHER. John Chaffin is here now.

STATEMENT OF JOHN CHAFFIN, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Mr. CHAFFIN. My name is John Chaffin, I'm from Bozeman. I live in Bozeman. I also maintain that I'm from Dillon.

I would like to speak to you concerning the Beaverhead Forest and various areas within there. As I understand, what you're discussing and looking at here today are what areas within the State of Montana that we would want to have added to the national wilderness preservation system. I would ask that you approach this with this idea in mind: That you should openly determine that all land to be made wilderness will qualitatively add to the national wilderness preservation system and not merely add acres.

I think that there are several areas within the Beaverhead National Forest that qualify as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. I believe that there are many other areas that are essentially natural that do not qualify as wilderness but wouldn't necessarily fall underneath it because many people think that it could be rehabilitated.

I would also ask that you consider while we were discussing only RARE II, really, that you consider those lands being considered by wilderness under the Department of Interior. Because when you take a look at what you're going to qualitatively add to the Wilderness Preservation System, there is no need to duplicate areas that might have better use and higher use for the people of southwestern Montana.

Many preservationists insist that any decision short of the legislative wilderness means the end of these natural areas. I do not believe that that is correct. I have traveled in nearly every designated proposed wilderness area in Beaverhead National Forest. I have seen mine shafts, cabins, many timber cuts and stock ponds. Nature has reclaimed all of those. And the miners, loggers, and range users did not have the stringent laws and regulations that they have today.

Natural areas will continue to exist and will continue to come back after development and after multiple use. I cannot subscribe to the philosophy that any decision you will make will simply be how much less wilderness you will have. Those areas that are truly wilderness, not merely roadless natural-appearing areas, will be preserved. True wilderness will be recognized. We will have all that the law requires to be set aside.

In addition, hundreds of thousands, possibly even millions of acres will be managed with the priority given to conservation. Wise and prudent development will be allowed under conditions designed, and minimize impacts and restore the land. As I'm sure

each of you is aware, that is not merely management prerogative, but that's the law.

I'd like to simply conclude by sayng that while I'm traveling in all these areas, I've been impressed with the beautiful impact of this area and the naturalness. The thing I will remember most are the people that I traveled with. Those people now are my nurse, loggers, they work for implement companies. I would sure hate to come back to take my children into those areas and find out that my friends have had to move on. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Torger Oaas who's on a previous panel but who was delayed, I think because of golf, is here now. Torger Oaas.

STATEMENT OF TORGER L. OAAS, CHAIRMAN AND ADVISER, MONTANA POLE & TREATING PLANT

Mr. OAAS. My name is Torger L. Oaas. My father and I started this business in July 1946. Today I act as chairman and adviser to Montana Pole. We are located in Butte, Mont. We are a wood-preserving company that manufactures power poles, telephone poles, piling, poles for farm and industrial-type buildings, fence posts, corral posts, cross ties, and other wood products. In normal times this operation provides jobs for 22 people, which all live in Butte, Mont.

Also, we added to our operation a small sawmill. We are manufacturing timber for the housing industry and dimensional timbers for industrial use. This unit provides jobs for 28 people.

To keep these units operating at normal capacity requires at least 20 million board feet of logs per year. We obtain this raw wood product from the Deer Lodge National Forest, Beaverhead National Forest, and the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Recently, we met with the timber management people of the Deer Lodge National Forest. They advised us that in the next 10 years they will be putting up for sale the small total of 20 million board feet, that's in 10 years. Out of this total 20 million board feet, 7 will be set aside for small business. That's where we'd be getting our timber supply under the small business.

This will make us reach out to the Beaverhead and Lewis and Clark National Forests. I think the situation is the same for other wood-oriented businesses in this same general locale, like the sawmill in Dillon and one in Deer Lodge.

Timber supply is already short and if we should lose more to RARE III, it would be a disaster. I am 100 percent against adding any additional areas or taking more back and expanding RARE III. RARE II is sufficient—no RARE III.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. That concludes this panel.

Paul Richards, Ronald Glovan, Ed Madej, Scott Kronberg, Dan Heinz, Lorrie Thomas, Tony Schoonen, Dan Fabich, Tim Magness, and Arnold Olsen.

STATEMENT OF RONALD GLOVAN, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. GLOVAN. Senators Melcher and Baucus, Congressmen Williams and Marlenee, my name is Ronald Glovan. I live in Butte, Mont., and I'm a native of Montana and I'm from Anaconda.

It's my intention to speak primarily with regard to additions to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness. However, I think a few words regarding the Big Hole River are also appropriate.

The Big Hole River is and should be considered by all as a national treasure. During the recently completed stone fly hatches on the river, floaters, outfitters, and other fishermen from all over Montana and the Nation converged on the river. The waters were high and clear and the key words here are "high and clear" because there are very few streams anywhere the size of the Big Hole River that can run that high and still be that clear. It is the clarity of these waters and the fish that they contain that attract all of the fisherman and many others. The Big Hole can run high and clear because of the exquisite watershed that it drains. If that watershed is destroyed, the river and all the life that it supports will also certainly be destroyed. Part of that watershed is the southern portion of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness and it contains several outstanding areas that are suitable for inclusion into the wilderness.

Unfortunately, when the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness was first established, many of the boundaries were established on political lines. When I speak of "political lines," I mean perhaps along the section line or the boundaries did not follow any logical natural boundary. The lack of inclusion in the original wilderness of the proposed additions to the northeastern edge of the wilderness. which are the areas in and around the Dexter Basin, the area around the 100-acre meadow and the area in and around the Four Mile Basin Lake of the Isles and Storm Lake areas, are examples of illogical boundary drawing.

Why, for example, should the wilderness boundary run through the middle of the 100-acre meadow, which is a beautiful subalpine meadow, when it could run around the meadow and completely protect it? It is also difficult to understand why the alpine lakes in and around the Four Mile Basin area were not included. The addition of these areas to the wilderness are a natural extension and the new boundaries would encompass lands from foothills to the tops of the highest ridges. When the range and the wilderness areas are viewed as a whole, these additions are a natural part of the system and I would urge you to view that range as a whole. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Ed Madej.

STATEMENT OF ED MADEJ, CONSERVATION CHAIR, UPPER MISSOURI GROUP, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. MADEJ. My name is Ed Madej and I'm representing the 300 members of the Upper Missouri Group of the Sierra Club, most of who are located in Helena, Butte, and Anaconda. My address is 920 Breckenridge in Helena, 59601.

In general, I'd like to voice our support for alternative W, which would protect the best of what is left of Montana's roadless lands. Specifically, I'd like to address two areas of particular interest to us, the Italian Peaks on the Beaverhead National Forest and Lionhead Mountain on the Gallatin National Forest. These two areas, although not as well known as more famous wildlands in the

region such as the West Big Hole and the Pioneer Mountains, actually comprise some of the wildest country remaining in southwestern Montana.

The Italian Peaks are found on the southernmost part of the State, some 25 miles due west of Monida Pass along the Continental Divide. Here the Continental Divide follows the crest of the Beaverhead Range along the tops of spectacular 11,000-foot peaks, which closely resemble some of the mountains of Glacier National Park.

The proposed wilderness would protect the habitat for a herd of almost 100 elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and a small group of antelope, which are rarely found on national forest land in western Montana.

The core of the area, some 13,000 acres, was originally recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service but was downgraded to further planning by the Carter administration, due to its location in the Overthrust Belt. The area has been recommended for wilderness by former Governor Tom Judge, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and even some representatives of the timber industry.

Conservationists agree with this core recommendation and would like to see portions of the high mountains to the northwest of Italian Peak included in the wilderness in order to round out the boundaries of the area. All of the acreage we are talking about has no conflicts with any extractice use, except for the remote possibility of exploration activities for natural gas.

The other area is the Lionhead Mountain area. It lies 10 miles west of the town of west Yellowstone, Just south of Quake Lake. Chiefly, the 22,000-acre Forest-Service-recommended wilderness consists of a series of 10,000-foot peaks, several alpine lake basins, and portions of the Madison earthquake slide. The area's steep slopes and the unstable soils make it unsuitable for any kinds of development requiring roads.

The Forest Service believes that certain portions of the area, such as the lands surrounding targhee Peak, have the potential of having disastrous slides equaling that generated by the great Madison earthquake of 1959. These factors, along with the fact that the area is Situation One grizzly bear habitat, make the Lionhead an ideal candidate for wilderness protection.

I'd like to close on a personal note with a reminder that loggers aren't the only people earning their living from the national forests of Montana. As an outdoor writer and an outfitter, my livelihood depends on the continued existence of many of these wildlands, and I hope that the Montana congressional delegation will see fit to protect most of them as federally designated wilderness areas. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Paul Richards.

STATEMENT OF PAUL RICHARDS, BOULDER, MONT.

Mr. RICHARDS. My name is Paul Richards, I live in Jefferson County right by the Deer Lodge National Forest. I am here in my capacities as lifelong Montanan, hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman. I am also personally familiar with the importance of Mon-

tana's wood products industry, having been employed cutting posts and poles and also having served as production supervisor for a woodworking facility which employed more than 30 people.

I am a fellow alumni with you—Max, Pat, and John—of the Montana Legislature. While serving as an elected official, I became acutely aware just how difficult it is to balance short-term economic opportunism, which has such well-funded lobbies, with public policy which serves long-term economic and ecologic stability, whose lobbies have yet to be born. This is the crux of most environmental controversies. Today is no exception.

The big trees are gone. The profitable timberlands have all been mined, with no meaningful sustained yield management policies which might have allowed continued harvesting. Instead of pushing for sustained yield, the timber industry is pulling out the stops to continue timber mining, moving now to marginal national forest land which had heretofore been unfeasible for harvest.

Make no mistake about it, timber interests are on welfare. The Government is subsidizing ill-advised logging of marginal lands with massive doses of taypayer dollars. At one site just north of Helena, the Forest Service spent $182,000 on a road where the timber harvest was so economically unfeasible no bids whatsoever were submitted.

Roadless areas are valuable. The economic data is now in place to prove this. Subsidized marginal timber sales are a joke. The economic data is now in place to prove this.

The forests under consideration today are in Montana, not Washington or Oregon. As much as timber corporations like to fantasize, the trees these forests produce do not hold a candle to the economic benefits Montana reaps from our massive outdoors industry. People come here to partake in hunting, fishing, and outdoor experiences, not to mope over denuded forests and silted streams.

We must save what little wildlands we have left. I strongly urge your support for alternative W, which would protect important Montana roadless areas. More specifically: No. 1, just miles from my home south of Boulder lie the Tobacco Root Mountains. These mountains have already been recommended for wilderness by the Governor of Montana during the RARE II process. I support the creation of a 60,000-acre wilderness in the Deer Lodge and Beaverhead National Forests.

No. 2, I spend much time in the Big Hole area. Please support the creation of wilderness in the West Big Hole, 86,000 acres; West Pioneers, 148,000 acres; and East Pioneers, 94,000 acres. In addition, three additions, 48,000 acres, should be added to the Pintlar Wilderness.

No. 3, the Governor of Montana also recommended wilderness protection for the Flint Creek Range west of Deer Lodge. I concur with this recommendation.

No. 4, my family is one of those private landholders within national forest land you hear so much about these days, especially since the Melcher amendment to the Alaska lands bill. We own 640 acres in the Crazy Mountains, surrounded by the Gallatin National Forest.

Speaking on behalf of the principal owner, Dr. Belle C. Richards of Helena, I would like at this time to place our family on record in

support of a 90,000-acre wilderness designation for the Crazy Mountains. This area is nearer to our hearts than I could ever describe in words. It must receive the protection is so richly deserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator MELCHER. Scott Kronberg.

STATEMENT OF SCOTT KRONBERG, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Mr. KRONBERG. I'm Scott Kronberg from Bozeman. I, too, feel that we really need to develop the RARE II lands issue in this case. I hope all persons interested in Montana would work together in the spirit of cooperation to solve this problem. Because of my training in the field of land management, I'm expecially concerned that these lands be managed in a manner appropriate and suitable. I don't think we need to be plowing up range lands for small grain production in margin areas of precipitation. I don't think we should be selling timber on the Gallatin and Beaverhead or any other national forest when the sale cost exceeds returns. That's poor business and abuse of our tax dollars and is poor land management.

I don't think it is good land management to justify construction of county roads on marginal timber-producing areas on the grounds of improved recreational potential, improved fire control or improved management in general.

A road may solve some management problems but at the same time, it creates new management problems. I expect that increased road access in some Montana national forests is going to lead to shorter, more restricted elk hunting season and I think that a lot of Montanans will be very unhappy if this happens.

I suspect everyone in this room realizes we live in a very special State. We have greater freedom in this State because of our lower population density and relatively undeveloped nature. I, for one, would be very sorry to see this State turn into another California. The people in this State need jobs and I think it's time for Montanans to create and develop new industries which are move innovative and long-term use of our natural resources. In this State there's a lot of creative people and I think we can do it if we set our minds to it. I think we need to look way down the road before deciding on the fate of Montana's RARE II lands.

I don't know what our Nation would be like 100 years from now. I suspect our country will have more people and be a lot more developed and I think Montana wildlands will be a much more valuable resource than they are today. There are other places in our country far more suitable for growing trees, timber, than the forests of southwestern Montana. We must keep in mind that wilderness can always be developed if we have an extreme need for these resources but it is very hard to create new wilderness.

I certainly am not proposing that all of Montana's RARE II lands be made wilderness. I don't think wilderness is the best form of management for all of these lands.

I also have five letters from people who support alternative W who are unable to be here today and I would like to introduce these into the record.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Mr. Heinz.

STATEMENT OF DAN HEINZ, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. HEINZ. Senators Melcher, Baucus, Congressmen Williams, Marlenee, thank you for your time.

I'm Dan Heinz, a Butte resident. I retired March 20 after 25 years with the Forest Service. During that time, I served in many positions ranging from field forester and range conservationist to district ranger and finally as forest staff officer on the Deer Lodge National Forest. I was responsible for range, wildlife, fire, recreation, and wilderness management.

The Forest Service is a proud agency and I am indeed proud to have spent a career there. However, there are some characteristics of this agency that I urge you to keep in mind, both when you are considering whatever information they supply you and when you are designing legislation to guide management of special areas on the national forests.

The Forest Service is strongly commodity-production oriented. Their financing and their work are directed primarily at producing wood fiber and livestock forage. They will use their full authority to manage for commodities on all available lands. A check of the personnel roster on most national forests will show a ratio of about 25 or 30 commodity-oriented disciplines such as engineers or foresters for each amenity-oriented discipline such as recreation planner or wildlife biologist. This imbalance is genetic and unlikely to change.

You are hearing more and more proposals for back-country or roadless management short of formal wilderness classification. There are some areas where this is probably the most appropriate management. The Flint and Tobacco Root Ranges are examples where this approach, coupled with core wilderness classification, could be very effective.

However, back-country management allocations must not be left to administrative designation or protection. Even with NEPA and the environmental impact statement process, such designations are only as strong as the commitment of the local line officers. Line officers move frequently.

I relate a personal experience which is not unique. I was district ranger on the Leadville in Colorado. Mount Elbert is located on that district, it is the highest mountain in Colorado and second highest in the lower 48. Twenty thousand acres were proposed as wilderness to protect this special area from inappropriate development. I personally lobbied to have the area designated a wildlife management area, protected under the EIS process. This was done. The plan provided for light-handed logging while protecting the elk and the primitive recreation resources.

Three years after leaving Leadville, I heard that a high-standard road had been constructed to some very important elk habitat on Mount Elbert. A new forest supervisor and a new district ranger had some year-end capital investment money available, covered legal requirements with a simple environmental analysis, and constructed the road with a minimum of public involvement.

I wish I had done what I could to have that area classified as a wilderness. Legislative protection is a must for most special-managment areas. Wilderness classification best assures long-term protection of special areas.

We must look beyond current needs for wilderness lands. If qualified areas are not classifed, they will be exploited and the wilderness option will not be available to future generations.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Heinz follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DAN HEINZ, BUTTE, MONT.

Senators Melcher, Baucus, Congressmen Williams, Marlenee thank you for your time. A Butte resident, I retired March 20 after 25 years with the Forest Service. During that time I served in many positions ranging from field forester and range conservationist to district ranger and finally as forest staff officer on the Deerlodge National Forest responsible for range, wildlife, fire, recreation, and wilderness management. The Forest Service is a proud agency and I am indeed proud to have spent a career there. However, there are some characteristics of this agency that I urge you to keep in mind, both when you are considering whatever information they supply you and when you are designing legislation to guide management of special areas on the national forests.

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This imbalance is genetic and unlikely to change. You are hearing more and more proposals for backcountry or roadless management short of formal wilderness classification. There are some areas where this is probably the most appropriate management. The Flint and Tobacco Root Ranges are examples where this approach coupled with core wilderness classification could be very effective.

However, back country management allocations must not be left to administrative designation or protection. Even with NEPA and the environmental impact statement process such designations are only as strong as the commitment of the local line officers. Line officers move frequently. I relate a personal experience, which is not unique. I was district ranger on the Leadville R.D. in Colorado, Mount Elbert is located on that district. It is the highest mountain in Colorado and second highest in the lower 48.

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I wish I had done what I could to have that area classified as a wilderness.

Legislative protection is a must for most special management areas.

Wilderness classification best assures long-term protection of special areas.

We must look beyond current needs for wilderness lands. If qualified areas are not classified, they will be exploited and the wilderness option will not be available to future generations.

A lost of compromise went into alternative W. I support that proposal.

We are fortunate that the two current Forest Supervisors in this area are committed to balancing the amenity resources with commodity production. Unfortunately this situation is transitory.

Mr. MELCHER. Lorry Thomas.

STATEMENT OF LORRY THOMAS, PRESIDENT, ANACONDA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Mr. THOMAS. I am Lorry Thomas, president of the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club. Our club endorses the introduction of an omnibus wilderness bill into Congress. We hope this bill will include several roadless areas in the Anaconda area on the Beaverhead and Deer Lodge National Forests.

On the Beaverhead Forest, we support the Big Hole River watershed proposal which would protect the West Big Hole, East and West Pioneer Mountains, and the North Big Hole. These areas not only deserve protection in their own right, but their protection will also help maintain water quality on the famed Big Hole River.

The Deer Lodge Forest, we support wilderness designations for the Sapphire Mountain wilderness study area, the Flint Creek range further planning area and the Storm Lake addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area.

All of these areas are used by Anaconda-area residents for hunting, fishing, backpacking, and other forms of outdoor recreation. The areas all possess exceptional wildlife, scenic, and back-country values. The timber growing in these areas is extremely poor and we feel that wilderness protection for them will provide economic benefits from the increasing numbers of visitors who use them. We feel these benefits are substantial and should not be ignored.

Our club has a special concern for the national forest lands within the Big Hole River drainage, which is only 20 miles from Anaconda. We are very worried about what the wholesale management of these lands for logging will do to wildlife and water flows of the Big Hole River. The proposed land-use plan released by the Beavernead National Forest last year indicates that there will be almost 50 timber sales within the drainage area over the next 9 years.

We feel this is excessive and could contribute to the loss of critical water flows in the Big Hole River as others have discussed here today. The hundreds of miles of roads needed for logging will have a devastating impact on wildlife, particularly elk. It will also lead to a lowering in the quality of hunting, and eventually, to shorter hunting seasons.

Protection of the four watershed areas will help to protect the Big Hole water flows and wildlife values and guarantee that these areas will continue to provide quality hunting. The West Pioneers have an especially large elk herd with lots of big bull elk. This is because the area is roadless. And we want to see that this area remains roadless.

But if a way can be found to protect the area from development other than a wilderness designation, we would support this. We definitely oppose the release of the West Pioneers from their wilderness study status.

We feel that the West Big Hole deserves special mention. Our club has supported the West Big Hole wilderness since its inception. This 25-mile mountain range is one of the most impressive and beautiful in Montana and no area in the State is more deserving of wilderness protection than the West Big Hole.

Thanks for your time.

Senator MELCHER. I think, Margaret, that you're going to testify on behalf of Tony.

STATEMENT OF MARGARET SCHOONEN, ON BEHALF OF TONY SCHOONEN, PRESIDENT SKYLINE SPORTSMEN

Ms. SCHOONEN. Yes.

My name is Margaret Schoonen and I am testifying on behalf of my husband, Tony Schoonen, president of Skyline Sportsmen, a club based out of Butte, Mont., with a membership of over 300. Our address is Box 2, Ramsey, Mont.

The Skyline Sportsmen Club has long supported permanent protection of the watershed of the West Big Hole, West and East Pioneers, and the North Big Hole.

Skyline Sportsmen are active members of the Big Hole River watershed coalition, whose purpose is to insure that extensive logging and roadbuilding of the upper Big Hole and Pioneers does not become a reality and have an adverse impact on abundant wildlife and watershed in these areas.

Limiting logging and roadbuilding in these areas at the present time insures good watershed and clear, clean running streams. This has already been noted.

Revenues derived from the Big Hole watershed add millions of dollars to the local economies. Those revenues are coming from hunting, fishing, campers, and backpackers, which have been increasing each year and can be added to the ranching operation revenues of this area.

Extensive road building is always a byproduct of logging and mining operations. DNRC studies have shown that especially building of roads and tearing up of fragile mountain terrain contributes to rapid runoff and snow melt, causing erosion and excess sedimentation of streams.

Because the area ranches are increasing their use of water from the Big Hole as summer progresses, they too, have a vested interest in keeping water in the river. Water supply and a productive ranch operation go hand in hand.

Southwestern Montana, the upper Big Hole, and Pioneers offer much to the in- or out-of-State hunter. It is because these areas have limited roads, open, uncluttered meadows, and abundant cover that we are blessed with so many species of wildlife; for instance, the trophy elk, mountain sheep, and goats, and moose. There are few places in the lower 48 States where you will find the habitat of such diverse species in one area.

Without permanent wilderness protection of our remaining pristine forests, we will be facing constant battles, especially when we have administrations and those in power who have no basic empathy with nature and the land itself.

The land, its natural resources, the wildlife and beauty is our inheritance. It is not ours to take and exploit. It is a legacy we are obliged to care for and protect for the generations following us.

Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Dan Fabich.

STATEMENT OF DAN FABICH, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. FABICH. I'd like to thank the Senators and Representatives for being here today. I'm also sorry that you didn't continue the hearing into the evening so more blue-collar workers could be here. I notice the agenda is filled with people from private-interest groups that are being paid wages to be here today and I had to lose my wages to be here and testify.

Senators and Representatives of the people, I know firsthand of the great concern for jobs in Montana. I formerly worked for the Anaconda Co. and lost my employment as did thousands of other hard-working Montanans. I now work in one of the major industries in the State: tourism. To go along with that, I am a member of the Montana Outfitters & Guide Association.

There is no one at this hearing today, regardless of their affiliation, who can deny the importance of tourism and outdoor recreation to Montana's economy.

I also have great concern for my fellow Montanans who make their living from the State's abundance of natural resources, but they also should be concerned about how the land is left for their children and grandchildren. The Anaconda-Butte area is a prime example of giant company providing temporary employment, pulling up stakes at a moment's notice and leaving only the scars of their existence for the local residents to endure into the future.

Montana conservationists have proposed alternative W which releases 3 million of the 5.2 million acres to the multiple-use program. I support this proposal and would like further study and consideration made on the balance of these lands.

My personal familiarity encompasses the West Big Hole and the area above Mussigbrod Lake, already proposed by the Forest Service as an addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. In addition to the 6,000-acre proposal above Mussigbrod Lake, I also believe that the bordering drainage of Clam Creek should be considered because of the hot water springs in the area and the freshwater clams residing in the creek bed. These two extraordinary features will add another dimension to the Pintlar Wilderness that is not present in the existing 230,000 acres. I also support the Storm Lake proposal, mainly because the Atlantic Richfield plans on selling 33,000 acres in this area joining the Pintlar Wilderness and we don't know what's going to happen to that area yet.

I also support the soft release proposal of all the roadless lands that were included in the RARE II study. This compromise has already been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in six other States. Montana should follow suit and not go along with the hard-release program that the Republican administration of Ronald Reagan wants for big business.

I realize that all the land was not meant to be wilderness, but the portions of it that provide a unique and rewarding experience for those who venture to pass through them can never, in our generation, be returned to their natural state once altered by the hands of man. I ask that you give your time and utmost considerations to keeping Montana a place where people can get away from it all.

Many of our out-of-state hunters have expressed their concerns to us, as outfitters, as to how the public land in Montana is being taken care of and why the Forest Service is building roads and clearcutting right up to the borders of the wilderness. If people from other parts of the country notice these faults, then maybe the residents should take time to address them.

I will end my testimony by saying: Take care of the land because they're not making any more of it.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Tim Magness.

STATEMENT OF TIM MAGNESS, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. MAGNESS. My name is Tim Magness, I'm a member of the Outfitters and Guides Association. Dan is my other partner and we have a business that deals in fishing and packing into Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area. We bought the business 2 years ago knowing that the road was going to be built in there and it was going to be logged off. So we're kind of in favor of backing us for adding Clam Valley to the other Pintlar Wilderness area because we make our living there and we bring probably 30 to 40 guests in every year. We employ 3 to 5 other people part time which, in the long run, we're out there trying to make this into a year-long business that would be another 10 or 12 people.

We're kind of looking at you to back the wilderness bill. If you go back East and that, and you would advertise that you have a nice Pintlar Wilderness area and you drive through a great big clearcut and that's your base camp, which it will be if they log Clam Valley, it's kind of hard to convince some of the people to go out and hunt and fish in a great big clearcut.

We make our living at this. To close, I just want to maybe state that if you would go along with all this wilderness bill, once you log these areas off, it can't be revegetated and that, within maybe 130 years. It doesn't matter how many times people come back to look at this area, they're not really going to hurt the area by looking at it and stuff like that.

But we make our living in this area and we are mainly concerned that you look into this and not log it off.

I have stuff that didn't get here on time but I'll give that to you when it gets here.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Magness follows:]

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Olson Gulch
Anaconda, Mont. 59711

PINTLAR PACKERS

DAN FABICH
(406) 563-2480
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Anaconda, Mont. 59711

July 7, 1983

Pintlar Packers
Tim Magness
Olson Gulch
Anaconda, Montana 59711

Outfitter in Beaverhead & Deer Lodge National Forests.
Member Montana Outfitters and Guides Associations.
Member Montana Bow-hunters Association.

I Support the Montana Wilderness Association Rare II Plan. Some of the reasons I feel the Rare II should be adapted are:

1). I am an outfitter in one of the concerned areas (North Big Hole, Clam Valley, Howell Timber Sale. I am involved in hunting and fishing trips into Pintlar Wilderness Area and surrounding areas.

2). I mainly run my business in summer and fall but a yearly plan is expected in future. Tourism is third largest industry in Montana and this area is one that draws a great deal of people year long.

3). Now I employ 3 to 5 people in my business operation. Future operations will increase number of people working and income from tourism.

4). This area has great potential for future tourism

in a realiable resource in wildlife and scenery. Once this is logged it is destroyed forever.

5). A great deal of money is spent in local areas business from advertising, forest service, permits, grazing, food, travel, lodging and many more not to mention.

6). We have a nice area where I run my business. A base camp on edge of wilderness with other camps within the wilderness area. The areas are no longer there to just move to another area because you have been pushed out of existing area. I feel that this area should be considered for wilderness because of its importance to my business and future in surrounding area.

Again my main concern is that North Big Hole Rare II Area be added to current Pintlar Wilderness Area. This area is where I make my living and livelihood. It would help my business if this are would remain as it is. It is very hard to spend a lot of money on advertising for people to come to see areas not in its natural state.

Thank you,

TIM MAGNESS
Pintlar Packers
Outfitter & Guide

Senator MELCHER. All right, thank you.
Judge Olsen.

STATEMENT OF JUDGE ARNOLD OLSEN, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. OLSEN. Thank you for the opportunity to appear. I appear on my own behalf.

First of all, I want to say that it's one of my prides of accomplishment that I was an original sponsor of the Wilderness Act in 1964. I greatly laud the progress that you gentlemen have made in Congress with this concept since my time.

I regret very much that the administrators of the Environmental Impact Statement on RARE II made the narrow mistake of arbitrarily adopting ground rules that would result in low wilderness recommendations. I regret that all that time has to be taken to go to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to find that the RARE II study was unfair. Now, then, we have an opportunity to make it fair and of course it's what you're here all about.

I'd like the opportunity to file a written statement from 10 days hence on my particulars.

I want to comment further: I strongly support the West Big Hole, the West Pioneers and East Pioneers as a protection for the watershed of the Big Hole River. I hear the testimony of a gentleman who wants to protect his irrigation dams on Dempsey Creek. Well, if he went up Swamp Creek, a tributary of the south fork of the Big Hole, he'd find a clear-cut on the south slope up near the Ajax Mine, about a mile this way of the Ajax Mine, that was cut about 45 years ago. The clear-cut is just clear erosion, silting up Big Swamp Creek.

If there was an irrigation reservoir in Big Swamp Creek at that place, it would be full of silt. The only protection for the dams on Dempsey Creek, the primary protection is the law it will be a wilderness. A wilderness would protect the clear waters of irrigation dams that they not be silted out.

My primary interest, then, in speaking to you, is to protect the watershed and to protect the last sanctuary of wildlife in the State. Many of the witnesses against this alternative W are friends of mine. I don't think they're talking about the same forest that I'm talking about. At these high altitudes and precipitous slopes, a tree will never grow again, not the estimated 100 or 150 years, but not ever.

If Torger Oaas, who is a very good friend of mine, and I went to these precipitous slopes, I would think he would agree with me. By the same token, I think Torger could take me to places that he could demonstrate should be harvested as commercial timber.

I think we're at a point now in studying the wilderness and studying the Forest Service that there is no commercial timber being proposed for wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Arnold.

That concludes this panel.

Our next panel is John Wilson, Ken Fenner, Greg Seitz, Bud Campbell, Sue Eik, Ralph Phillips, Neil Ruttenbur, Jack Perkins, Dave Hammonds, and Ron Beck.

John Wilson.

STATEMENT OF JOHN WILSON, MAYOR, CITY OF DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. WILSON. My name is John Wilson and my position is mayor of the city of Deer Lodge.

My interest in this decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that would close all of the roads in the designated areas of the surrounding forest land is this: I am most concerned as to what this will do to the economy of Deer Lodge.

Deer Lodge has the Louisiana-Pacific Sawmill which gets most of its supply of timber from this designated area. Louisiana-Pacific employes approximately 150 persons between the sawmill and the logging operation. This makes a payroll coming into Deer Lodge of about $3.5 million per year. Should this industry be crippled, Deer Lodge and the surrounding area would suffer.

Because of this threat to the timber industry, I am testifying at this hearing in support of a wilderness bill as a vehicle to finalize the wilderness issues and designate national forest land use in Montana. I feel that this bill is necessary to resolve questions that are arising because of the circuit court decision. In the interest of the citizens of Deer Lodge and Powell County, I recommend that the U.S. Congress pass a bill to finalize decisions made about the forest lands. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, John. Ken Fenner.

STATEMENT OF KEN FENNER, DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. FENNER. Senator Melcher, committee members and interested parties, my name is Ken Fenner. I am representing myself and the city of Deer Lodge.

I am an employee of Louisiana-Pacific and have a family of five. I have been with the sawmill for 20 years and have been a city councilman for 5 years and realize the importance of this industry to the economy of Deer Lodge.

The sawmill and logging industry currently employs approximately 135 people with an annual payroll of approximately $3.5 million.

In the past 30 months the sawmill and loggers have been shut down for 15 of those 30 months and we've really noticed the impact to the economy of Deer Lodge because of this shutdown.

There are currently 19 areas classified as roadless in the Deer Lodge National Forest under RARE II with a potential timber harvest of 21.2 million board feet per year and we cannot tolerate any of these areas going into wilderness or pseudowilderness areas.

Myself and my family as well as many of the people in this community use the areas for summer and winter recreation. We feel that preservationists are using the Ninth Circuit Court's decision to make these areas pseudowilderness areas. We feel there has been enough delay about the studies on these areas and that it should be settled once and for all.

We support an omnibus wilderness bill for the State of Montana. This bill should resolve any questions caused by the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit decision of April 1982. So myself and the

city of Deer Lodge feel we have enough wilderness areas and we don't need any more. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Greg Seitz.

STATEMENT OF GREG SEITZ, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. SEITZ. Senator Melcher and members of the congressional delegation, I'm Greg Seitz. I'm a rancher in Anaconda. I was raised in the Shields Valley close to the Crazy Mountains.

Since the Wilderness Act and its controversy does not directly affect my ranching operation, my testimony will be more or less general.

In my opinion, Montana has enough wilderness. People in Montana seem to want jobs more than wilderness. I personally believe the influence and money comes from outside Montana, not within. More wilderness means higher taxes, less jobs. Men and women with jobs supporting families contribute more to Montana than do backpackers who are only here a few weeks in the summer.

Many of the areas we are talking about have been there for hundreds of years managed by State and Federal agencies. There are many competent people within management agencies. Quit playing politics and let these people manage.

I am not against preserving some of nature's wonders. Look at the maps. As much as 50 percent or more of the West is already in State and Federal ownership. Montanans don't want to be preserved out of existence.

As a rancher my objections to wilderness are the loss or reduction of grazing units; the loss of weed control which is going to be a great issue in the future; loss of timber harvest and jobs. Don't let the pine beetles eat the trees. Instead, build houses out of them.

Also, don't log the marginal areas. That's where the management factor comes in.

People with jobs eat a lot more beef and spend more money and contribute to the economy more than those who are unemployed. In listening to some of the testimony today it seems that, if we don't make all of the areas wilderness, they will disappear from the face of the earth and be destroyed.

These areas have been here for hundreds of years and have been enjoyed by a lot of us and still are. Timber grows back if managed properly.

Tourists come to Montana for reasons other than wilderness. They have come for years and they will continue to come.

We have limited resources. Manage them. Don't just bottle them up. Legislation is not necessarily the key. Sensible management is. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Bud Campbell.

STATEMENT OF BUD CAMPBELL, DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. CAMPBELL. My name is Bud Campbell. I own and operate a small business in this area.

In the last 5 years my business has been directly affected by the shutdown of industries such as the Anaconda Co., the Milwaukee

Road, and the slowdown of the timber industry. We have seen a sharp decrease in the number of people employed and an increase in our tax load.

I feel that any expansion of the wilderness area would put an undue hardship on the timber industry creating the possibility of losing another of our basic industries and further eroding our tax base. I think we have enough wilderness area and expensive long-term impact studies. We need to allow these people to make a living. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Sue Eik.

STATEMENT OF SUE EIK, PHILIPSBURG, MONT.

Ms. EIK. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I appreciate it.

My name is Sue Eik, a lifelong Montanan, a resident of the Georgetown Lake and Philipsburg areas the past 21 years. I represent myself as an independent business person of motorized recreational equipment and as a member of the Montana Snowmobile Association.

My comments directed here today, I would like to be put on record as objecting the Flint Range, Fred Burr, and the Sapphire Mountains as additions. My comments are contained to the areas of Flint Range and Fred Burr simply because they are the areas I've utilized the most and I feel I know what I'm talking about.

We live here, we work here, we play here, and we love it. There is no need for further development of wilderness in this area.

Do you realize that in the already designated Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness there are 4,770 acres alone on the Deer Lodge National Forest? In the proposed Flint Range and Fred Burr additions we're looking at 58,800 more acres. How many of us here have really explored the existing wildernesses we do have?

That's a lot of acres, folks, that will be utilized by a very select group of the populace, namely those of you who have good legs, good lungs, and can walk several miles or are fortunate enough to have access to horses and the necessary time to take on such an excursion. The other side of the coin are the working folks, those of us who work all week and have a few hours to spare so we take off in a small Jeep, motorcycle, or snowmobile and venture into these roaded areas to enjoy the great outdoors for what time we have.

What it all boils down to is what your definition of wilderness is. I guess I'm picky when I think about wilderness and what I want of a wilderness. It sure isn't a place with roads, dams, cabins, mining scars, and logged-off areas. There's traces of man and his plan all over that country.

For those of you that haven't spent much time back in the Flint Range, I'm telling you it's heavily timbered, even the ridges and mountain tops, no majestic peaks to view the landscape from like you do in the Pintlars. You can't even see the lakes down in the basins until you are there. I tell you the unique quality of wilderness just isn't there and never will be.

In closing, I hope that there is enough negative response generated by this hearing to put an end to RARE II forever so that these areas can be put back into production for lumbering, mining, and

exploration. These areas should be available for production by an everdemanding society as they are needed. All Granite County needs economically is another wilderness to support and a wilderness boundary 3 miles from town. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Loren Luthje. He's not here. Ralph Phillips.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Thank you, Mr. Melcher. I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

First of all, Neil Ruttenbur couldn't be here. He's president of the Deer Lodge Snowmobile Association. I have a short statement from him.

STATEMENT OF NEIL RUTTENBUR, PRESIDENT, DEER LODGE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr. Melcher. As president of the Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club which includes 50 family members, I feel that I can express the opinion of the majority of the club members. We feel there are sufficient wilderness areas in Montana at this time.

We snowmobile extensively in the following areas in the Deer Lodge National Forest: Gold Creek master mine area; Rock Creek Lake and Meadow Lake area; Elk Ridge and Tincup drainage; Dempsey Creek drainage; Race Track Creek drainage; Georgetown Lake; Storm Lake; and Warm Springs Creek. These areas are west and southwest of Deer Lodge.

We snowmobile east of Deer Lodge, also in the Banks Creek drainage; Cottonwood Creek; Cliff Mountain; Blizzard Ridge; and Cottonwood Lake.

We would be strongly opposed to any designation other than multiple use for any of the above areas. I wish this specifically to be entered into the congressional record on RARE II hearings for this area.

I would rather be giving verbal testimony at the hearing in Anaconda but your office staff failed to notify me of the scheduled time like you promised to do.

STATEMENT OF RALPH PHILLIPS, BIG SKY MUZZLE LOADERS OF DEER LODGE

Mr. PHILLIPS. My name is Ralph Phillips and I represent the Big Sky Muzzle Loaders of Deer Lodge, an organization of hunters, target shooters, and sportsmen who are against any further limitations of motorized activities in our area.

The statements that I am about to give are not the views of this organization, however, but my own feelings on RARE II and primitive or wilderness designated areas.

I own a snowmobile, a motorcycle, a four-by-four pickup. I backpack, hunt, fish, and across country ski. But after the testimony I've heard today I'd like to bring a different angle to your attention.

As you know, the environmental movement got a good start in the late sixties and early seventies. It was a popular movement for many people, especially college students. Now these students have their degrees, some in biology, others in wildlife management, forestry, and similar fields. I have nothing against a college education. In fact, our country wouldn't be the most advanced country in the world if it were not for our excellent educational system.

The big complaint that I have is that a young man or woman graduates from college with a degree; lands a job with the Forest Service, the BLM, the Fish and Game or like agency; and, becomes an instant expert in his field. He makes decisions and recommendations as to an area in which he is educated but makes these decisions with no experience or commonsense. He recommends that a certain area be closed or off limits to protect the environment yet

has no idea of what the increased use on adjacent areas will be until they become overrun. Then, he closes these and forces activity into a smaller area.

It isn't much different than raising cows and putting them into smaller and smaller pastures. Some day there just won't be enough room.

There are a certain number of people that use our public lands for motorized recreation and no matter what closures are in effect will continue to use the available space for vehicle-oriented recreation.

Sure, primitive and wilderness areas are great for backpacking and hiking if you are a student or teacher or laid off and have the whole summer off; but, what about the working man who has only weekends off?

Most truly primitive areas and lakes are 12 to 14 miles from trail heads meaning that Joe Worker, the one, by the way, that supports his country with tax dollars, must hike 12 miles to do his fishing, picture taking, and so forth, and hike 12 miles back in 2 days.

I might be able to do it now. I'm young and healthy. But sooner or later Mother Nature will catch up with me and I don't know anyone that she has left out.

So it comes down to the fact that I'm too old to walk that far and can't ever get close so I'll get in my easy chair; watch the football game; drink beer; and let medicare, medicaid, or welfare take care of me, because I can't get the exercise that once was available to me. What the hell, they closed it so they can pay my way.

Please stop this thinking and start a policy that puts professionalism ahead of personalism. After all, would you elect a college graduate that has a degree in political science as President of the United States? Not on your life, because he doesn't have the experience. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jack Perkins.

STATEMENT OF JACK PERKINS, DEER LODGE, MONT.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Jack Perkins and I have a ranch that belonged to my father and grandfather who took it up in 1885. My grandfather came to Montana in 1863.

I have been trying to think of reasons to make the Flint Range a wilderness area but I can't think of any real good ones. I can think of quite a few reasons not to.

There are a number of people that come through our place in Jeeps and bikes to fish in the Dempsey Lakes and to climb Mount Powell. In the winter a large number of people go up there in snowmobiles.

A lot of these folks are older, 60 or 70, and if this is wilderness they could not go as they could not walk that far. Most of the Lakes in this area have had dams put on them for irrigation. These dams take a lot of maintenance and this means taking in cats and other machinery. There are roads into these lakes already so they are not wilderness now. Most of these lakes were taken up before

1900. The two I have were taken up in 1893. They are very important to the economy of the Deer Lodge and Anaconda areas.

A little while ago my neighbor talked about the Dempsey lakes and, then, Mr. Anderson said that, if those lakes had been over in another area, they would be full of silt. These Dempsey Lakes are almost above timberline. There is no merchantable timber in the area at all. It would never be logged up in there.

We talked—I've heard some of the testimony today about the logging. The way they testified, if a place is logged over, it is completely ruined; the game will never go back in there.

In 1973 I logged a portion of my ranch. Now that spot has more deer and elk in it than any other area on the ranch.

If the fish and game biologists have their way, they would take my forest permit away from me. They need it for the prison elk herd up there now. They not only want to take my summer range; but, they want me to winter the elk in the wintertime.

If I had all that money from building 4,000 houses down in California I probably wouldn't care, either. But there's a few of us that have to make a living on this land. That's the way it has to be.

You might say that I am testifying for self gain, and this is true. A large part of my water comes from Bohn and Martin Lakes and about half of my cattle forest permit will be in wilderness, but these are things my family had for years.

The people that want this wilderness area are trying to take these things away from us. We are not trying to keep them out of this beautiful country. I think that it's big enough for all of us. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

David Hammons.

STATEMENT OF DAVID HAMMONS, RESOURCE MANAGER, LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.

Mr. HAMMONS. My name is David Hammons and with my position as resource manager at the Louisiana-Pacific Corp.'s sawmill in Deer Lodge, Mont., I support my expectant wife and my two boys. It is my responsibility at this location to acquire the raw material for the mill to operate; and, therefore, I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the timber industry on the Deer Lodge National Forest, the Louisiana-Pacific, and myself.

LP's annual capacity is 25 million board feet per year. And the estimated annual capacity for the Deer Lodge National Forest is over 50 million. The potential yield of the RARE II areas on the Deer Lodge is over 21 million board feet per year and has a major impact on the viability of the timber industry on the Deer Lodge National Forest.

LP is currently responsible for 137 workers in the industry and has an annual operating budget of over $5.25 million of which two-thirds goes directly to wages and related costs.

We have enough land already designated as wilderness in this area. With the current pseudo-wilderness areas and the threat of additional pseudo-wilderness area because of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court decision in *California* v. *Block,* if action is not taken now, things could look grim for the industry.

Because of this threat to the timber industry I am testifying at this hearing in support of a wilderness bill as a vehicle to finalize the wilderness issues and designate national forest land use in Montana. This omnibus bill is necessary to resolve the questions arising out of the ninth circuit court decison. It must declare that the RARE II EIS and associated procedures were adequate and that there was adequate consideration of the wilderness and nonwilderness values of all roadless areas in the State of Montana which RARE II placed in a nonwilderness category.

Further, this legislation must prevent parties from challenging multiple-use activities on lands that RARE II allocated as nonwilderness by using the ninth circuit court's decision.

We are currently in the process of reevaluating our recommendation for wilderness on individual areas and will inform you of our final agreements when they are reached. My feeling right now is that we cannot afford and additions to the wilderness system within Deer Lodge and surrounding national forests. Most of the areas studied under RARE II have commercial timberlands that are necessary to the economic and social stability of the local communities. Therefore, we are ideologically opposed to any further additions to the wilderness system.

We further recommend that the noncommercial lands within these areas be managed under reasonable and balanced miltipleuse planning to provide the fullest range of resource outputs. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Ron Beck.

STATEMENT OF RON BECK, RIVA RIDGE RANCH MANAGER

Mr. BECK. Thank you, Senator Melcher and members of the congressional hearing. I have submitted a written testimony as well as I have here two letters from interested individuals in the same area we are directly involved with.

My name is Ron Beck. I represent Riva Ridge Ranch, southwest of Philipsburg in Granite County. My wife and I have three children and have a ranch hand employed by the ranch.

We are strongly opposed to the area I-421 in the Sapphire Mountains being proposed as a wilderness area primarily because the proposed area comprises 80 percent of our summer grazing permit which includes the Frog Pond Basin, the Copper Creek, Green Canyon, and the Moose Lake areas. Without this particular permit, the ranch will become totally inoperable and would have no resale as a cow-calf operation.

We depend exclusively on this area for our summer grass; and, until a decision is made we will drastically cut our improvements until we know that we are secure in this permit.

This area in question is not a wilderness area. There are developed roads through the hearts of each one of these four areas I mentioned above. There are fences that we maintain and cattle guards in all of these areas.

These areas also include hundreds and hundreds of acres of private deeded mining claims and, also, have residences, some of which are permanent on a year-round basis, as well as various

cabins which are utilized by miners and trappers and other individuals who come there at certain times of the year. There are people coming and going on an everyday basis in these particular areas because they are so accessible.

I have been in the Pintlar Wilderness myself on numerous occasions and I've yet to see an individual in there. Compared to the areas in question above I do not think—or I know that the quality of wilderness is not found in these particular areas. The ground is very precipitous and it's very hard to get around even on foot.

I say now that we have enough acreage in the State of Montana as wilderness and I think the time has come now to ratify and take care of this problem accordingly. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Beck follows:]

STATEMENT OF RON BECK, RIVA RIDGE RANCH MANAGER

My name is Ron Beck. I am manager of Riva Ridge Ranch which I represent in this testimony. The ranch supports our family of 5 plus the hired help. The ranch is owned by an absentee owner and is operated as a business.

We strongly oppose the wilderness proposal of Area 1-421 namely Frog Pond, Green Canyon, Copper Creek and Moose Lake Areas. These areas comprise our forest grazing permit which we depend exclusively on for our summer grazing. Without this permit the ranch would become inoperable and would have no resale value as a cow-calf operation.

We work hard at making this a successful operation and have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the economy of the area each year. If this is desigated as a wilderness area our life line will be destroyed. Many people who come to this area as visitors will be discouraged at they will not be able to utilize a wilderness area.

In the times I have been in the Pintlar wilderness I have yet to see one person compared to the hundreds who come to the four mentioned areas above.

We have also worked hard to maintain our permit and have spent considerable time in regulating the grazing effectivess of our livestock to both our benefit and the the health of the forest areas in question. This also reduces the fire hazard by keeping the dry grass to an effective minimum.

The four areas mentioned above have improved roads, cattle guards, fences, hundreds of acres of private deeded mining claims as well as permanent residences. For these reasons this is not a wilderness area! I strongly stress that this area be not considered for any compromise.

Senator MELCHER. Ron, are you testifying that I-421, the study area, has cattle guards?

Mr. BECK. Yes; in the Frog Pond Basin and, also, in the Green Canyon, as well.

Senator MELCHER. Within the study areas?

Mr. BECK. Yes.

Senator MELCHER. I need to talk with the Forest Service.

Well, that concludes this panel and I want to take the next panel. It is Chris Marchion, Bob Boeh, Cary Lund, Polly Renee, Ann Sutton, Crandall Bey, Allen Cook, Emily Stonington, Teresa Kaiserski, Steve Shimek, and Rick Meis. Chris Marchion. He's not here. Bob Boeh.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. BOEH, DIRECTOR, LAND MANAGEMENT, BURLINGTON-NORTHERN TIMBERLANDS, INC., ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Mr. BOEH. My name is Robert E. Boeh, director, land management for the B. N. Timberlands, Inc., Rocky Mountain District. I reside in Missoula, Mont., and have been employed by B. N. Timberlands and its predecessor companies for 13 years. During my

tenure with the company, I have been extensively involved in the many studies, public hearings, and other activities that have occurred relative to management of both public and private lands impacted by RARE II process in Montana.

We believe it is timely and essential for Congress to develop, consider, and enact statewide legislation which speaks to the entire question of wilderness designation within the national forests of Montana.

My comments today are directed at the Gallatin and Beaverhead National forests, within which B. N. Timberlands manages approximately 177,000 acres. Of that total as much as 76,000 acres are impacted by the boundaries of areas currently under consideration for wilderness designation through both the RARE II process, which is the principal subject of discussion at this hearing, and the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977. It is our opinion, generally shared by others throughout the Forest Service and the environmental community that a wilderness area should not be created which encompasses vast acreages of private land until the private landowner is adequately compensated.

B. N. Timberlands specifically requests that any wilderness bill contain provisions for legislated lands exchanges whereby the private landowner could convey to the Government his lands which were impacted by wilderness designation and, in exchange, acquire equally valued properties from the Government. Insofar as B. N. Timberlands is concerned, there are two such areas where legislated exchanges will likely be desirable. They are the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn, areas G and H 1548, and Madison, area N 1549. B. N. lands within the Madison area are adequately addressed in the Lee Metcalf bill, S. 96, which has passed the Senate but is still under consideration in the House. I will use this opportunity to urge that every possible effort be made to obtain prompt passage of S. 96.

The fragile consensus among all interest groups which is represented in the provisions of S. 96 is in danger of unraveling irreparably if consideration in the House of Representatives is delayed much longer. In our case, the timber involved in the exchange with the Forest Service is deteriorating at a rapid rate that will render it worthless unless we can soon begin efforts to salvage it soon.

B. N. Timberlands' management has for many years recognized the high recreation and wildlife habitat values that exist on company lands within the areas above mentioned. We have deferred construction of roads and harvesting of timber in the area pending resolution of the public debate over eventual land use allocation of the Federal lands in the area.

However, we cannot continue to defer our management activities indefinitely because within the area there has been a significant epidemic of mountain pine beetle which has caused extensive mortality in the lodgepole pine. Should the public debate and subsequent legislation regrading these areas fail to pass in the near future, we will need to construct roads and harvest the timber from company lands within these areas.

In addition to our request for language assuring the completion of equitable land exchanges, we support the inclusion of specific language in a bill which confirms the sufficiency of the RARE II

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process and releases the area recommended for nonwilderness in order to prevent further litigation and delay which could result from the California court RARE II decision.

We encourage the delegation to act quickly to prepare a statewide bill which includes legislated land exchanges for private inholdings as well as sufficiency and release language. We stand ready to assist in any way we can to see this matter brought to a timely and final conclusion.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before your subcommittee today. We have limited our comments to the above two national forests because, as we understand it, the boundaries of other areas in that State do not affect us at this time. If this changes, we will be back in contact with you. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Cary Lund.

STATEMENT OF CARY B. LUND, VICE PRESIDENT, LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. LUND. For the record, my name is Cary Lund, vice president of the Last Chance Audubon Society out of Helena, Mont. I'm here today to deliver our oral testimony from the chapter and will prepare a more detailed testimony to be submitted at a later date.

The Last Chance Audubon Society, with a membership of 180 individuals and families, is located in the area of Helena, Mont. The society's mailing address is P.O. Box 924, Helena, Mont. The society serves its members and the public by providing a variety of activities relating to the enjoyment and understanding of natural history.

The society's board of directors met recently to consider the issues posed by this hearing. At that meeting, the board agreed that the society should support the designation and protection of Montana's wildlands as would be provided for in alternative W as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association and other conservation organizations. The board also determined that the society should oppose any legislative language which would have the effect of precluding future designation of wilderness areas in the State of Montana through legitimate planning processes.

Areas of specific concern to our membership are those listed in the alternative W proposal. And, in particular, members related to myself and others at the board meeting that they were concerned—that they, in fact, utilized for recreation and are familiar with the Little Blackfoot, Italian Peaks, Tobacco Root Mountains, the Crazy Mountains, and the Absaroka-Beartooth areas. Those areas, in the view of our membership, provide superlative setting for wilderness-type recreation.

Several of these areas have become significantly more popular for wilderness-type recreation as the established wilderness areas have become heavily utilized. This bears out the fact that the growth in wilderness recreational use has been such that the existing established areas in the region are not adequate to meet the demand for wilderness recreation use.

The society's membership supports wilderness status for these areas in that it offers the best protection for other uses of these public lands besides recreation. Water quality is important for the

watersheds and streams of Montana. We value water quality as it affects wildlife and recreation and find wilderness designation to be important to its maintenance. Wildlife values are a primary concern of our membership and wilderness designation assures maintenance of natural systems which provide a diversity of natural habitat for wildlife.

One of the popular outing areas which I would like to speak to—a popular outing area for our members—is the Livingston area with its fine floating and fishing on the Yellowstone River, and the recreation provided by the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The additions to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness proposed in alternative W would assure that the esthetics, wildlife, and other values of the north and west slopes of the Absaroka Mountains above Paradise Valley and the Yellowstone River would be preserved. The face and foothills of the Absaroka Mountains have significant wildlife values including some grizzly habitat which is currently occupied.

Due to the heavy precipitation this range receives, there is a diverse and unusual community of plants, several of which are rare for the region. The diversity of bird species is notable as a consequence. Extensive subdivision development of adjoining private lands makes protection of the face and foothills of the Absarokas all the more imperative.

We appreciate the opportunity you have provided through the hearing process for our comments.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lund follows:]

TESTIMONY OF THE LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Presented by Gary B. Lund, Vice President

To the Public Lands Subcommittee of the United States Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Matter of the RARE II Areas of the National Forest System in the State of Montana.

More detailed written testimony will be provided for the hearing record at a later date.

The Last Chance Audubon Society with a membership of 100 individuals and families is located in the area of Helena, Montana. The Society's mailing address is P.O. Box 924, Helena, Montana, 59624. The Society serves its members and the public by providing a variety of activities relating to the enjoyment and understanding of natural history.

The Society's Board of Directors met recently to consider the issues posed by this hearing. At that meeting, the Board agreed that the Society should support the designation and protection of Montana's wildlands as would be provided for in "Alternative W" as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association and other conservation organizations. The Board also determined that the Society should oppose any legislative language which would have the effect of precluding future designation of wilderness areas in the State of Montana through legitmate planning processes. Due to the nature of the hearing process, the Last Chance Audubon Society will be represented at the Anaconda and Great Falls hearings. In that way, the areas of specific concern to the Society may be addressed in their appropriate forums.

Areas of specific concern to our membership, determined after consultation with members, in the Deer Lodge, Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests are:

- Little Blackfoot
- Flint Creek Range
- Anaconda-Pintlar additions
- West Big Hole
- Italian Peaks
- Tobacco Root Mountains
- East Pioneer Mountains
- Lionhead Mountains
- Crazy Mountains
- Absaroka-Beartooth additions

In particular our members utilize for recreation and are familiar with the Little Blackfoot, Italian Peaks, Tobacco Roots Mountains, Crazy Mountains and the Absaroka-Beartooth. These areas provide superlative settings for wilderness type recreation. Several of these areas have become significantly more popular for wilderness type recreation as the established wilderness areas have become heavily utilized. This bears out the fact that the growth in wilderness recreational use has been such that the existing established areas in the region are not adequate to meet that demand.

The Society's membership supports wilderness status for these areas in that it offers the best protection for other uses of these public lands besides recreation. Water quality is important for the watersheds and streams of Montana. We value water quality as it affects wildlife and recreation and find wilderness designation to be important to its maintenance. Wildlife values are a primary concern of our membership and wilderness designation assures maintneance of natural systems which provide a diversity of natural habitats for wildlife.

The Crazy Mountains are an area with which many of our members are familiar ~~with~~ due to recreation outings there. This range is geologically unique; being the most extensive volcanic radiating dyke system in the world. It is, as we are all aware, one of the most scenic mountain ranges in the region. The recent public outcry, as expressed in letters to the editor and editorials, against the disposal of the public lands there indicates just how much Montanan's value the Crazys. Botanically, the Crazies possess some unique isolated populations of plants which need further research and protection. One such population was recently disturbed by road building. The large mountain goat population in the Crazies would be jeopardized if road building and development activities were to intrude further into the range. We recognize that the private inholdings in this range present management problems. The resolution of this would be for these lands to be purchased or for conservation easements to be obtained. This solution has in fact was pursued in the past with the successful purchase of several sections. The inholdings in the interior of the range are characterized by high elevations (8,000 to 11,000 ft.) and steep barren slopes. They have little development potentail. The interior of the range has no merchantable timber.

A popular outing area for our members is the Livingston area with its fine floating and fishing on the Yellowstone River and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The additions to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness proposed in Alternative W would assure that the aesthetics, wildlife and other values of the north and west slopes of the Absaroka mountains above Paradise Valley and the Yellowstone River would be preserved. The face and foothills of the Absaroka mountains have significant wildlife values including some grizzley habitat which is currently occupied, Moose, bighorn sheep, elk, golden eagles and other valued wildlife species are present, utilizing the areas year around. Due to the heavy precipitation this range receives, there is a diverse and unusual community of plants, several of which are rare for the region. The diversity of bird species is notable as a consequence. Extensive subdivision development of adjoining private lands, makes protection of the face and foothills of the Absarokas all the more imperative.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Polly Renee.

STATEMENT OF DAVID STRONG, LIVINGSTON, MONT.

Mr. STRONG. I'm David Strong and I'm substituting for Polly Renee. I'm a native resident of Livingston and I support proposal W and want to specifically speak to the Crazies.

For the past couple days I have been researching the reasons why the Crazy Mountains were dropped from consideration having wilderness potential in the RARE II studies. There do not exist any documents stating the specific reasons. One can only speculate why the decision was made and how responsible the decision was.

One of the reasons may be a 21-wilderness-attribute rating. Regardless of what the WARS rating may say about the Crazies, anyone who has ever visited them will say they rank among the top for beauty and ruggedness. In fact, if I wanted someone to know what really wild, beautiful, rugged country is, I would take them to the Crazies. They define and give the standard for ruggedness and wildness. No one, I don't think, would want to deny that. One of the difficulties the Crazies are said to face is the checkerboard landownership. This checkerboard idea is deceptive. Much of the best of the Crazies exists already as a solid block of Forest Service land.

Second, for the remaining private holdings, some landowners have changed and some landowners have changed their minds. For instance, the people who own the land surrounding Smelter Lake are now willing to negotiate with the Forest Service. I suspect this matter just has not been looked into with sufficient concern and will.

With Watt wanting to sell the Crazies, I think the will is behind us now. We are not going to better the Crazies by developing them. I would like to see the Crazies preserved as they are now for generations. They play a big part in my life and well-being of my life. I really love those mountains.

We have come to a watershed decision concerning the Crazy Mountains. I will not live to regret it if motorized traffic is stopped on some trails; but, it will be a sad day in my life if some of the present trails and virgin landscape is replaced by roads and clearcuts—by the roads and clearcuts foresters are now planning. Thank you.

Mr. MARLENEE. Furnish for the record, if you will, documentation that Watt wants to sell the Crazies. I've heard that mentioned a number of times today. If you guys are going to level the allegations, I want furnished for the record the documentation that he, in fact, has said that. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Ann Sutton.

STATEMENT OF ANN L. SUTTON, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Ms. SUTTON. Senator Baucus and other subcommittee members, friends, I urge the adoption of alternative W for the remaining wilderness resources of Montana. I feel there should be a sensible balance between developmental actions on the one side and preservation of water resources, wildlife, and fish, and recreational opportunities on the other side.

The best argument that can persuade most people to try for this balance between development and preservation is to consider the dollars and jobs involved. Travel and tourism rank as the second largest retail or service industries in the entire United States. This is an industry employing 5 million workers, contributing $200 billion to the gross national product annually, and paying $18 billion in Federal, State, and local taxes. I submit that a good part of this money comes into Montana every year by people visiting our wilderness areas. Outfitters, guides, and thousands of visitors use the wilderness for hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and hiking, as well as other uses providing a vital economic force in this State.

I resent the implications only young people can use wilderness areas. I myself am 60. I don't mind saying so. And I intend to continue using the wilderness areas in Montana and every other State I can now reach as long as I can. I can still hike and I can still backpack. Perhaps some of the others that can't should have started sooner.

During the consideration of RARE II legislation there are many areas that should be released for other uses because they are not—would not make wilderness areas. However, this should not be done in a one-shot, arbitrary fashion called hard release, but on a thoughtful, long-term, considered manner treating wilderness as a legitimate multiple use which it is together with timber, grazing, or mineral resources which are given periodic review.

After all, needs change with time; and, with recreational activities of all kinds on the increase tremendously each year, we need a pool of recreational resources for the future just as we need to preserve water resources, wildlife, and fish for future generations. Without these, Montana is no longer a desirable place in which to live or to visit.

I especially recommend the inclusion of the following places that I am personally familiar with and wish to see included under alternative W: The Absaroka-Beartooth additions of 40,000 acres; the Lionhead Mountain with 22,000 acres; and the Crazy Mountains, a 90,000-acre parcel.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sutton follows:]

Testimony presented to the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee by Ann Sutton, 3318 Sundance Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715 on July 7, 1983 in Anaconda.

Please make these comments part of the permanent hearing record.

Senator Melcher and other subcommittee members:

I urge the adoption of Alternative W for the remaining wilderness resources of Montana. There should be a sensible balance between developmental actions on the one side and the preservation of water resources, wildlife and fish, an and recreational opportunities on the other side.

The best argument that can persuade most people to try for this balance between development and preservation is to consider the dollars and jobs involved. Travel and tourism rank as the second largest retail or service industry in the United States. This is an industry employing 5 million workers, contributing $200 billion to the gross national product, and paying $18 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. I submit that a good part of this money comes into Montana every year by people visiting our wilderness areas. Our outfitters and guides and thousands of visitors use the wilderness for hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and hiking, providing a vital economic force in this state.

During the consideration of RARE II legislation, certain areas should be released for other uses wherever study shows that these areas are not useful as wilderness. However, this should not be done in a one-shot arbitrary fashion ("hard release"), but in a thoughtful long-term considered manner, treating wilderness as a legitimate multiple use just as timber, grazing, or mineral resources are periodically reviewed. After all, needs change with time, and with recreational activities of all kinds on the increase tremendously each year, we need a pool of recreational resources for the future, just as we need to preserve water resources, wildlife and fish for future generations. Without these , Montana is no longer a desirable place to live or to visit.

I especially recommend the inclusion of the following places that I have visited and wish to see included under alternative W:

1. The Absaroka-Beartooth additions of 40,000 acres because of critical wildlife habitat and for the spectacular scenic values along the highway to Cooke City.

2. Lionhead Mountain with 22,000 acres which is a part of the Yellowstone ecosystem, providing prime grizzly habitat, and providing high water yields because of heavy winter snow pack.

3. In the Crazy Mountains, a 90,000 acre parcel because of its location as the first Montana mountain range seen from the interstate highway by thousands of tourists annually, and because of its importance as a heavily used recreation retreat for surrounding city dwellers, and the fact that little saleable timber exists here.

Thank you, Senator Melcher, for this opportunity to comment.

Ann L. Sutton

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Ann.
Crandall Bey.

STATEMENT OF CRANDALL BEY, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Mr. BEY. Thank you, Senator Baucus.

My name is Crandall Bey and I'm director of the Wildlands Research Institute of San Francisco State University.

For the past 6 years we have been conducting independent studies and evaluations of Montana RARE II areas and areas covered under the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977. My testimony today will concern the Gallatin National Forest.

I would like to first echo the comments of fellow panelists concerning the Crazies, Absaroka, and Lionhead additions which you find in your alternative W. It is our conclusion as an institute that the alternative W proposal in general for the State of Montana, specifically for the Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Flathead, Lolo, and Gallatin Forests be adopted as a compromise measure that includes new wilderness areas and soft release language.

My specific comments are going to address a Montana wilderness study act area, namely the 160-acre unit commonly referred to as the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn. It is our conclusion that this area be classified as wilderness and the private inholdings in the study area be acquired through land exchanges as expeditiously as possible in order to maintain the wilderness character of the total unit.

It is our conclusion after 4 years of study that Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn has outstanding wildlife, watershed and recreational values warranted in wilderness classification. As an extension of the Yellowstone ecosystem, this unit provides key habitat for major wildlife population including highly appreciated game species, elk in particular, and threatened species such as the grizzly.

As a major watershed for the Gallatin River the unit continues to support the stable quality flows for downstream municipal, agricultural, and recreational use. As a uniquely outstanding backcountry setting for dispersed recreation, the unit attracts numerous sportsmen, outdoor enthusiasts, guess ranch vacationers, and fishermen, a combination that contributes substantially to the local Montana economy in that it is clear that the timber and mineral potentials for the unit are marginal at best.

Wilderness potential of the unit will contribute to a reasonable economic and cultural well-being while preserving the nationally significant wildland for the benefit of future generations. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Senator BAUCUS. Did you mean 160 acres?

Mr. BEY. I meant 160,000. I'm sorry.

Senator BAUCUS. Next is Allen Cook.

STATEMENT OF ALLEN COOK, PRESIDENT, GALLATIN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

Mr. COOK. My name is Allen Cook. I'm president of the Gallatin Wildlife Association and, also, a field biologist for 25 years working primarily in agriculture. I would like to echo what Crandall has said, though I never met him. I would like to thank Crandall for

his comments on the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area. I think it's very critical that area be protected because of the large elk herd that migrates from Yellowstone National Park.

The Gallatin Wildlife Association is a staunch supporter of wilderness. No other organization offers as much protection for wildlife species and still allows hunting. In fact, the best scheme we've seen to insure the winter range in large roadless tracts for elk security seems to be the wilderness situation.

If we are to continue to have quality and quantity of wildlife and recreational experience that we and many others come to Montana to enjoy, we must protect the wild character of our national lands.

By any standards recreational values dwarf the value of the timber in the Gallatin. It seems environmental and economic suicide to continue to present the proposed rate of eroding and timber harvest. Visitors who contribute much to the economy will go to other unspoiled places if we fail here.

We do not oppose timber harvest in areas where wildlife and ecological values permit. We have seen little to no protection without wilderness.

We strongly support alternative W. We also support the soft release language which would enable us within a short period of time to again review areas we feel may have been overlooked.

We should also remember that the wilderness provides the best hydrologic protection to prevent erosion siltation of the trout streams and conserve water for domestic and agricultural use.

We implore you to represent us and future generations wisely. We urge you not to submit to development that denigrates our wild places and our environment. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Allen.

Emily Stonington.

STATEMENT OF EMILY STONINGTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. STONINGTON. Thank you, Senator Baucus and members of the congressional delegation. I am Emily Stonington, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, testifying on behalf of the federation.

The Montana Wildlife Federation has existed in Montana for 48 years for the purpose of promoting sound wildlife management and the protection of wildlife habitat. We have a membership of 2,500 in Montana and are the State affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation with a membership of 4.2 million nationwide.

I am here to express the support of the Montana Wildlife Federation for the adoption of some of Montana's remaining 6 million acres of roadless land as wilderness. We are interested primarily in the quality of the wildlife resource in our wildlands and how that is best to be sustained. We acknowledge and support the need to finalize designation of our roadless areas, acknowledging as well the need to meet various demands of our citizenry.

The Gallatin National Forest, with which I am most familiar, is in large part included in the greater Yellowstone area. This area forms an intact ecosystem providing habitat suitable and ample for

the continued existence of our large mammals which need vast expanses of land.

The grizzly, most notable of these, is declining in the Yellowstone area due to a variety of causes. Primary among the causes is the diminishing habitat suitable for this ranging, unpredictable animal. The grizzly needs, as do the elk, the moose, the bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, large areas in which human pressures are minimal. This means not only no roads, but also no logging, no mining, no drilling. This means wilderness, land designated to be left truly wild and untouched.

The greater Yellowstone ecosystem, which extends from around Jackson, Wyo., north to the Gallatin and Yellowstone valley, provides the sort of habitat of which I speak. We advocate doing everything possible to minimize human pressures in this ecosystem, allowing it to be a natural legacy for all times to come.

Wilderness additions which would promote the continuity of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem include three areas around the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness amounting to 60,000 acres; two areas around the North Absaroka Wilderness amounting to 3,000 acres; and, Lionhead Mountain, 22,400 acres. These are all acreages proposed in alternative W. We support the addition of these acreages to our wilderness system.

The Mountain Wildlife Federation supports alternative W as a reasonable approach toward the finalization of wilderness designation in Montana. For the 3 million acres not recommended for wilderness designation by alternative W we urge you to advocate soft release which will allow future generations the latitude to reconsider their land's designation. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you. Next is Teresa Kaiserski.

STATEMENT OF TERESA KAISERSKI, MADISON-GALLATIN ALLIANCE

Ms. KAISERSKI. My name is Teresa Kaiserski. I'm representing Madison-Gallatin Alliance based in Bozeman, which is a conservation group with members throughout Montana and the Nation. We thank you for the opportunity to testify here today at this hearing.

Because the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals declared RARE II inadequate, we advocate improvements that more evenly balance the wilderness and nonwilderness management of the remaining wilderness lands in Montana. Far more lands than the Forest Service recommended in RARE II meet the qualifications of the wilderness plan. The Madison-Gallatin Alliance supports a compromise bill outlined in the statewide conservationist's alternative W.

For lands that are released to nonwilderness use, we promote soft release language so that the opportunity for review is possible in future forest planning cycles. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires wilderness to receive full and equal consideration with all other management options of national forests.

Wildlands are a resource diminishing nationwide and people are drawn into Montana for the prime recreation our northern Rocky Mountain area offers. All Americans value the undisturbed nature of the forest rich with wildlife, clean water, and rugged, beautiful

high country peaks. The wilderness designation is the best alternative for guaranteed protection of the assets of the forest ecosystem.

Specifically on the Gallatin National Forest, the Madison-Gallatin Alliance supports RARE II recommendation for wilderness in the Lionhead Mountain and the Northern Absaroka additions of Reef and Republic. We support additions of 40,000 acres to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Each of these adds integrity to the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

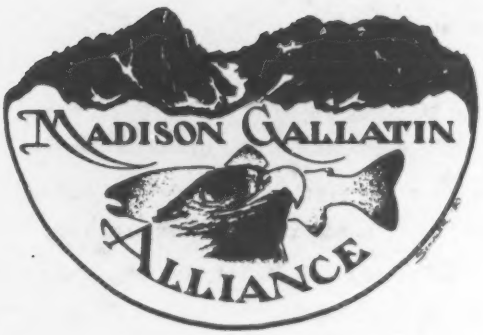
National attention is focused on the diminishing grizzly bear population and the threats to the land surrounding Yellowstone National Park. These fringe areas act as buffets to the main body of wilderness to the Yellowstone ecosystem.

The Madison-Gallatin Alliance also recommends 90,000 acres for wilderness in the Crazy Mountains. The Crazies are a range of beautiful scraped peaks mostly above timberline that rise up out of the plains. We encourage the Forest Service to resume their formal policy of acquiring of the private lands with forest boundaries in the Crazy Mountains.

On the Gallatin National Forest we recommend approximately one-half of the roadless lands and review for release to the nonwilderness management. The lands suggested for wilderness on the Gallatin have high wilderness qualities and low commodity value. We feel they are justifiable because the Forest Service indicated the areas have low timber production value, virtually no possibilities for natural extraction, and current trends of nonmotorized use.

Lastly, the Madison-Gallatin Alliance supports wilderness on the Deer Lodge and Beaverhead National Forests as outlined in alternative W. Thank you.

[The statement submitted by Ms. Kaiserski follows:]



TESTIMONY FOR RARE II HEARINGS, JULY 7, 1983

The Madison Gallatin Alliance is a conservation group based in Bozeman, Montana that has members throughout the state and nation that are concerned with management of forests in southwestern Montana. Our organization thanks you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing of the RARE II lands issue.

In October, 1982 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declared the inventory of roadless areas done by the Forest Service inadequate. In Montana, the final RARE II EIS recommended merely .6 million acres out of a possible 5.2 million acres of roadless lands for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Far more lands than the Forest Service recommended in RARE II meet the qualifications of the Wilderness Act. We advocate improvements that will more evenly balance the wilderness/nonwilderness management of the roadless lands in Montana. The Madison Gallatin Alliance supports a compromise omnibus bill that recommends approximately 2.2 million acres of roadless lands for wilderness designation and approximately 3 million acres for release to nonwilderness management. This compromise is outlined in the statewide conservationist's "Alternative W".

For lands that are released to nonwilderness uses, we promote soft release language so that the opportunity for review is possible in future forest planning cycles. Soft release language has been the only option accepted by the full

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Congress in other state wilderness bills.

The Madison Gallatin Alliance encourages the delegation to consider the national and long term scope of this bill. The wild lands in Montana are a very valuable resource in their present form. The attractive feature of Montana, for both the people who live here and tourists who visit is the quality of wild lands that remain here. This is becoming a rapidly diminishing resource nationwide, and people are attracted to our northern Rocky Mountains to enjoy its prime fishing, hunting, canoeing, backpacking, hiking, skiing, horseback riding and other forms of recreation. Montana's wild lands are an inspiration for all Americans as they value the undisturbed nature of forests rich with wildlife, clean flowing water, and beautiful, rugged high country peaks. The best way to maintain this resource is a wilderness designation, for wilderness is the only alternative available guaranteeing permanent protection from development of the qualities of a forest ecosystem.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires wilderness to receive full and equal consideration with other management options of national forests. With that in mind, MGA has the following recommendations for the 312,000 roadless acres on Gallatin National Forest. We support RARE II FEIS recommendations for the Lionhead Mountains of 22,400 acres, and the North Absaroka Wilderness Additions of 3,000 acres in the Reef and Republic areas near Cooke City. The Madison Gallatin Alliance also recommends 40,000 acres in additions to the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. The Absoraka Beartooth Wilderness recieves the highest wilderness use in Montana with one half of all wilerness visitOr days, and is the fourth most popular Wilderness Area in the United States.

The Lionhead, and additions to the North Absaroka and Absaroka Beartooth are essential to the integrity of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. National attention is focusing on the diminishing grizzly bear population and threats to lands surrounding Yellowstone Park. These fringe areas are justifiable additions to the wilderness system because they act as buffers to the main body of wilderness in

the Absaroka Beartooth and the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Madison Gallatin Alliance also recommends 90,000 acres in the Crazy Mountains. The Crazies are a range of rugged, scarped peaks, mostly above timberline that rise up out of the plains. Their current use patterns are for hunting, horseback riding and backpacking. For 25 years the Forest Service had a policy of acquiring private lands within forest boundaries in the Crazies. That policy has been abandoned, but we encourage the Forest Service to again attempt to acquire the private lands that will protect the unique wilderness qualities of the Crazy Mountains.

MGA supports the release of the remaining 156,600 acres of roadless lands not mentioned above to nonwilderness management. The lands for release are in the Bridger Range, part of the Crazy Mountains and part of the Absaroka Beartooth additions. These exact areas are defined by Alternative W.

The areas suggested for inclusion in the wilderness system are justifiable because of their low commodity value, high wilderness characteristics and high primitive recreation use. Gallatin National Forest had the highest recreation use in Region 1 in 1982 with 2.2 million visitor days. Wilderness use for the region is up five percent.

Timber value on Gallatin National Forest is very marginal. The Natural Resources Defense Council found that between 1973 and 1978, timber sales on the Gallatin National Forest only recovered 27¢ for every $1 spent with all road construction costs included. If only half of the road construction cost is applied, assuming the road can be used for other purposes, Gallatin National Forest still only recovered 35¢ for every $1 spent.[1] These deficit timber sales indicate that it will cost taxpayers much more to manage the roadless lands for timber production than to manage them for wilderness. Roadless areas are often the most remote, least accessible and have poorest quality timber. The public would therefore lose monetarily and recreationally to have the roadless lands managed for timber production.

The RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement states that the wood processing industry plays a very minor role in the economy of the local four county area. Wood processing constitutes merely 3.4% of the employment base,[2] while recreation related employment runs very high.

Mineral extraction opportunities for the roadless areas in review are extremely minimal. The Forest Service Roadless Area Resource Summary indicates that for each area recommended for wilerness on the Gallatin National Forest, there are virtually no producing, proven or possible minerals.[3]

The RARE II Forest Service publication also states that recreation trends on the roadless lands are primitive. For southwestern Montana "among the many possible recreation activities within RARE II areas most occur in summer and fall and do not involve use of motorized vehicles. The heaviest primitive recreation use is in the Yellowstone complex."[4]

Lastly, the Madison Gallatin Alliance supports wilderness on the Deerlodge National Forest of 12,620 acres in additions to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness, Flint Creek Range 61,320 acres and 60,000 acres in the Tobacco Root Mountains. On the Beaverhead National Forest, MGA supports 20,000 acres for wilderness in the Italian Peaks. Also strongly supported is the Big Hole Watershed Protection Proposal which proposes wilderness for 30,000 acres in additions to the Anaconda Pintlar, West Big Hole Mountains 86,000 acres, East Pioneers 93,859, and West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area of 148,150 acres.

Notes

1 "Giving Away the National Forests: An Analysis of U.S. Forest Service Timber Sales Below Cost". Natural Resources Defense Council. Washington, D.C., June, 1980.

2 Montana Supplement to USDA Forest Service Environmental Statement - RARE II, June, 1978, p. 17.

3 Ibid, Table 11, p. 4-5.

4 Ibid, p. 17-18.

Submitted by Teresa Kaiserski, Board of Directors, Madison Gallatin Alliance, P. O. Box 875, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tom Kaiserski
820 W. Villard
Bozeman, MT 59715

HEARINGS FOR STATEWIDE WILDERNESS BILL

July 7, 1983

I'm submitting testimony to this congressional hearing in hope that the wilderness designation in general gets a fair shake with regard to Montana's RARE II lands. The purpose of this hearing and the ensuing legislation I hope is to correct any recommendations that the Forest Service may have arbitrarily determined rather than considering an area's true wilderness potential.

I believe the true argument here is whether or not areas that have legitimate wilderness qualifications according to the guidelines of the 1964 Wilderness Act have been given fair consideration for being added to the Wilderness System.

Many in opposition to wilderness designation will argue that too much wilderness already exists in Montana. To that I rebut that for an area to qualify for wilderness designation it must meet stringent qualifications and it just so happens that a good many of the lands remaining in the U.S. that can meet those criteria are located here in Montana. While it may be true that significant percentages of particular Montana national forests are in wilderness, it can also be shown that other forests here in this state and elsewhere nationwide have no lands designated as wilderness. The fact remains that wilderness still occupies only a small portion of the nation's total land mass and it certainly represents the most economically unproductive lands in the country.

The wilderness designation is definitely a controversial topic, but any restrictive land management designation usually is. There will always be people who are unhappy with the wilderness designation, but that is the nature of having to deal with millions of people with divergent and opposing points of view. But that is what laws are all about and enough support exists in this nation for the wilderness concept that its designation is allowed and mandated by law. That is what RARE II was about, and that is what this hearing is about; to see to it that law is carried out and that the last remaining roadless areas in the U.S. get fair consideration to inclusion in the wilderness system.

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Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Teresa.
Steve Shimek.

STATEMENT OF STEVE SHIMEK, CITIZENS FOR LAND USE PLANNING

Mr. SHIMEK. Senator Baucus and committee members, the area I will concern my comments to is the Gallatin Canyon, specifically that area between Gallatin Gateway and Yellowstone Park.

As you may have already been aware, the area is a checkerboard left over from the railroad land grant days. Names such as Porcupine Creek, Eldridge, Portal Creek, South Cottonwood, and Moose Creek are areas you have probably already heard about from your constituents, I'm sure.

Burlington Northern owns many of the private sections of land and their plans are now getting clearer and clearer today. At Porcupine Creek we are currently involved in a land trade to get BN out of the drainage and the forest in. When Burlington Northern assessed their land, they assessed it as development land and they wanted development property in return.

Obviously, we are not encountering solely a timber interest, but, also, a development company which plans to road, log, build on their lands. Because of the checkerboard, they will be affecting huge areas of our landscape.

The Forest Service does no small amount of logging, either. Approximately 350,000 acres of the 1,700,000-acre Gallatin National Forest is considered as a timber base.

There are sound economic statistics that say that wildlife habitat and recreation lands in the Gallatin Canyon produce more tax dollars to the Government, employ more people, and, in fact, overwhelm timbering as a land use. In the Gallatin Canyon raising elk and trout is bigger business than raising trees for two-by-four's.

I am not talking about esoteric values of wildlife. I'm talking about the multimillion dollar recreation industry. In 1980 a study sponsored by First Bank of Bozeman covering Gallatin, Madison, and Park Counties showed that the wood products industry accounted for 6.6 percent of the nonfarm economic base of that area while tourism and retail trade to out-of-state visitors alone represented 14.1 percent of the economic base. Further, between 1978 and 1980 the wood products industry had declined 36 percent while tourism had increased 7 percent. Tourism is a more stable industry than timber.

Now, if you were to look at Gallatin Canyon, an area alongside one of the two highways leading to the busiest entrance to Yellowstone Park, the numbers would be even more slanted towards tourism. Tourism overhwelms timber in that area.

A study recently completed by Montana State University shows that $3 million is spent by out-of-state fishermen in Gallatin County every year. That $3 million alone equals the payroll of Burlington Northern timberlands in our area and that's without looking at the economic importance of skiing, guest ranching, outfitting, and guiding, and a number of other things.

A tourism study completed by the State of Montana Department of Commerce reveals that the potential traveler to Montana is

looking for a scenic experience in a clean and relatively undeveloped environment. Logging and roading destroy the qualities our area has for attracting tourism dollars. Can you imagine the economic disaster that would happen to our area if the Gallatin River was not classified as a blue ribbon trout stream because the upper watershed had been destroyed? Or the disaster to our outfitters and guides if the elk hunting season dropped to 3 days, as happened in some parts of Colorado, instead of 5 weeks because roads had made the elk easily accessible?

Gentleman, the Gallatin Canyon is threatened by timbering, roading, and development. Not only are our lands threatened, but our economy is threatened and the recreation economy is a major economy in the Gallatin Canyon. Citizens are pushing through land trades in areas such as Porcupine and South Cottonwood.

We need your active support to get these land trades accomplished; and, after they are accomplished, we need a designation which will protect these areas as roadless. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Rick Meis.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD MEIS, PRESIDENT, MADISON-GALLATIN ALLIANCE

Mr. MEIS. Thank you Senator Baucus, Representative Williams, and Representative Marlenee. My name is Richard Meis. I am from Bozeman, Mont. I am president of the Madison-Gallatin Alliance, but I'm speaking today as an individual, a Montanan, and I'm glad I was able to get here ending my vacation in a speedy hurry.

I think we all agree that what is needed is a well-thought-out resolution concerning the disposition of these lands in Montana.

This past Monday was the celebration of our Nation's independence. This independence guarantees our freedom as a people. It allows us to enjoy an unparalleled standard of living. Especially here in the West where we have a tremendous love of outdoors and the ability to enjoy them. It is only right we do our best to maintain this standard of living.

In Montana our outdoor heritage is a way of life. And although many of us do derive a living from our land's varied resources, it is important not to overlook the value which goes far beyond what can be measured readily in dollars. I have yet to see an economic model which captures this spirit. Recreational uses of our roadless areas in Montana is an important part of life. Almost nowhere is there the quality of wildlands we so often take for granted. Changes are happening rapidly on our public lands in Montana.

RARE II was a huge undertaking. The ninth circuit court said it did not do an adequate job. It is now the duty of Montanans to strike an agreement ourselves and help to decide the fate of our lands.

Economically, conservation of these lands makes sense. We on the Gallatin National Forest have the highest recreation visitor day estimates in Montana. Income from recreation to the Forest Service on the Gallatin is the highest in region 1. According to Forest Service statistics, wilderness use was up by 5 percent just from 1981 to 1982. The National Resource Defense Council has compiled information which shows that over a recent 5-year period

the taxpayer spends money on Forest Service logging sales throughout Montana and especially on the Gallatin.

I support alternative W for Montana RARE II lands. On the Gallatin I urge wilderness for 90,000 acres of the Crazies and the Absaroka-Beartooth additions of approximately 40,000 acres. Also, Reef, Republic, and Lionhead all should be placed in wilderness as recommended previously in the RARE II process. We have heard and will hear many good reasons why these areas are high-quality wilderness candidates.

I urge you to introduce a bill in Congress which satisfactorily meets the goals of RARE II and the National Environmental Policy Act. Deserving areas should be managed as wilderness to maintain the wild value existent now.

Some areas are important for several reasons and need to be studied further with the forest planning process as the vehicle. Other areas should be released for other forms of management, again determined through forest planning. Planning is an important part of land management these days and cannot be overlooked.

Thank you for your time. I will submit further testimony in written form.

[Subsequent to the hearing, Mr. Meis submitted the following:]

July 27, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Melcher,

First of all, I must thank you, Sen. Baucus, Rep. Williams, and Rep. Marlenee for taking so much time to bring these field hearings to Montana on the RARE II issue. Everyone wants to see this issue resolved as soon as possible. How to resolve it is the question which seems to have so many different answers.

I am writing this letter as a follow-up to the Madison Gallatin Alliance testimony presented in Anaconda on July 7. I assume this will also be included in the hearing record.

RARE II was an extremely complicated environmental impact statement. In attempting to examine the nearly 3000 areas and assemble an evaluation of it all into one document, the Forest Service bit off more than it could chew. The subsequent California versus Block lawsuit brought this piece of work into close scrutiny as to its meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The original decision by the California judge exemplifies the shortcomings of the RARE II FEIS. The decision was appealed to and upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. I would strongly urge you to read the original decision as well as that of the Ninth Court if you have not already read them.

A major flaw that is apparent in RARE II is its magnitude. Such an undertaking cannot be sufficiently handled in one study or one document. The scare tactics of people calling for RARE III is testimony to the inability of these people to realize the need for study and planning. I sincerely hope this is not heeded by the Montana delegation and I trust you will take the initiative to look seriously at a Montana bill to deal with RARE II. Such an omnibus bill should decide not only what lands should be wilderness now and which lands should be released to the forest planning process either as non-wilderness or further planning, but it should also be agreeable to all parties so as to satisfy the courts' questions on RARE II insufficiencies.

To pass so-called sufficiency language in a bill that would call RARE II satisfactory in its recommendations and allocations and make it legal is very wrong. It would supercede our judicial system. It would sidestep the law. The National Environmental Policy Act and forest management and planning are laws. I am appalled by the

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thought that members of congress would feel the need to ignore both the law and the courts.

We hear over and over the cry against "single use land" as an argument against wilderness. Wilderness is far from single use, single purpose or locked up land. Just because some individual is not making a dollar off the public's resources is not a reason to discount the multiple uses of wilderness.

There is no better airshed and watershed. Its value as complete wildlife habitat cannot be argued. (Habitat manipulation may improve one aspect but diminishes other equally or more important habitat values such as trading security and thermal cover for improved forage.) Wilderness offers an unmatched recreation which can only be found in abundance in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana in the contiguous states. Big game hunting in wilderness cannot be beat for success rate as well as sport. This form of management provides a biological constant that cannot be recreated. Wilderness also allows grazing and mining in accordance with the law. The aesthetic values and tourism and guest ranching and outfitting all depend to some degree on wilderness. To call wilderness single use is to approach the issue with a closed mind.

There are strong reasons to look at other uses besides wilderness for our roadless areas. Many areas are not of high wilderness value in light of other resources. Many are. Some may have to be looked at in more depth to determine the best management alternative. It is important this option is left open.

I would like to discuss some things we hear in opposition to any more wilderness. Several of these are important and need to be thought out before they are accepted.

Development surrounds us, even here in Montana. With development is the need for growth and expansion. We are a raw material state in development production. This growth and development means increased exploitation of our resources. Montana is also an agricultural and tourism state. People come here as tourists mostly because of the two national parks. This demonstrates the importance of our wild lands. As we grow and develop we will be diminishing these other resources. Too much too fast and we will be the 'same' as any other state. We will then begin to lose other types of very important industry. At a certain point, resource extraction becomes a more expensive way to derive a certain comodity than through conservation. Aluminum and gasoline are good examples. Timber soon will be, if it is not already. Copper is a different story. Wise use of our resources is a must. Planning is impotrant.

It has been said many times throughout the RARE II process that we don't need all this expensive and time consuming study. Any good forester will scoff at that statement. It is a fact that most resource base figures from past planning far overcommit the actual capabilities of the land in light of other needs and uses. The old systems and plans are not capable of meeting the needs of the present and future--even if no more wilderness were designated. It was

explained to me by a forest planner on the west side of the divide that each use such as timber, water, wildlife, and recreation used the whole forest as the base on which its production levels and capabilities were set. The many uses did not mesh and you have a demand for several values on the same piece of ground--only one of which can be met. With the data base improving all the time as to the requirements of each of these uses as well as the needs, foresters can go into the planning process and balance these to the ability of the forest to produce in light of the demands for use.

The mineral and oil values are important. We need to look at the associated problems before fully commiting ourselves to the development of them. It would be wrong to sacrafice all other values to the scent of possible money from them. To say, "This corridor probably has deep overthrust potential," is sheer speculation with no grounds for basing any management decision. This statement was made in Anaconda at the hearing in opposition to the inclusion of certain areas as wilderness. Management decisions better be made on more solid imput than uncertain adjectives. Wilderness values are there, need no speculation, and are becoming more valuable all the time as recreation increases, wildlife habitat is diminished, and watersheds are denuded.

Intensive mineral development has done quite a lot for Montana. Good and bad. Butte and Anaconda are perfect examples of what happens when you let outside interests come in and run your community. Silver Bow, Deerlodge, and Powell counties are into it over their heads. Certainly there was much good derived from the mining and smelting. Many jobs and quite a bit of money for a long time. But now... And in the future?

I lived in Wolf Point during a part of the oil boom in the Williston Basin. Rep. Marlenee should be able to fill us in on the benefits that corner of the state received from a quick boom-bust cycle. I was renting an apartment for $175. per month. Friends told me that this apartment rented for only $90. less than two years earlier. Business and building picked right up. So did prices. Locals who were not making the 'oil money' often could not afford to rent a new place. In fact, it was hard to find a place to rent with the influx of workers. Motel prices went up. The fast dollar caused an inflationary trend in the area.

Pop. Half a dozen or so seismic companies just up and disappeared. Many jobs for locals were gone. The high pay and big spenders were gone. But many costs remain high. A Mt. Highway Patrolman in Wolf Point tells me he can hardly afford the still inflated rent. Many buildings built or remodelled on promises sit idle--the local owners the losers. It is the local community that suffers in the long run. The real profits are in the pocket of someone in Denver, Houston, or Calgary. Wolf Point is certainly not the only community in which this sort of thing happened. Others such as Sidney, Plentywood, and Glendive will attest to varying degrees of the same problem.

Do we want to give much more of Montana to the hands that shaped Butte and Anaconda? Is the boom-bust development worth the cost to the man on the street? It doesn't have to be. We can retain that which only Montana has and still have some mineral and oil development.

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We hear over and over again the story that the RARE II study has caused a shortage of timber thus hurting the woods products industry. Yet in the last few years, the economics of the country have dictated to us the problem. High interest rates. No one was buying lumber. Many logging sales which were already sold and under contract were not cut within the contracted time limit. People in the Forest Service regional office in Missoula can tell you that there is not any effect of the RARE II delay being felt in the short term by the woods products industry. In the long term there may be an effect, but it would result in any event for a variety of reasons. RARE II and the current forest planning process will give the public lands management guidelines that would have to be brought about in one form or another.

I mentioned one of the problems that is being resolved by these planning processes. (Refer to the bottom of page two.) The overrated resource base of the past led to an overcutting of timber in many areas. No sustained yield could be reached using our silvacultural knowledge of today. Many places were logged on overly steep slopes or on unstable soils. Reforestation was not practiced often enough. But more often than not the best timber and areas were logged off taking highly valuable old growth stands that will not be matched again on a commercial basis.

Though logging practices have significantly improved, there is still a problem with theoretical supply. The Forest Service is having to readjust its annual allowable cut figures on many forests. Yet many mills complain that the amount of timber put up for sale isn't enough to meet the needs of the mills. What of the needs of the public and the forests? If the mills were given all they asked for in some of these areas, not only would many other important forest resources be degraded or ruined, but over time the timber would run out anyway.

The use of the Forest Service commercial timber value must be looked at with a grain of salt. It is a basically arbitrary figure. A better understanding of that can be gotten from Arnie Bolle, whose expertise on the subject can hardly be challenged. Many figures can be interpreted many ways when dealing with this. The costs of accessing many of these areas, inherent soil problems, mitigating impacts on wildlife and watershed can become more costly than the commercial value of the timber, even though it is delineated as commercial timberland by the Forest Service.

The National Resource Defence Council did a study on the economics of logging. (done in 1980 covering the years 1974-78.) This report shows that region 1 for the five year period only had a 90% recovery of costs from receipts. That is an average. On the Gallatin Forest the receipts/cost ratio was .27. Even with the use of only 50% of the cost of the roads it is only .35 for the ratio. Often the Forest Service will write the cost for part or much of the roads off to other values on the forest. With the high number of roaded areas now, the value sharing does not seem to substantiate itself as more often than not it is degrading the value of other uses such as wildlife, recreation, and so on.

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As the system now exists for definition of commercial forest land many areas that are marginal have not been analyzed for the more valid figure of what their potential is but have been assigned an average value based on the whole forest. This is too high a value. A very important misuse of this type comes in averaging the whole forest like this. I have been told that this practice is being done on the Gallatin. There are certain areas on the Gallatin which are of significantly greater commercial timber value than others. This averaging will inflate the values of especially roadless areas, as if it were necessary to increase the timber base the forest would like to see cut. It is too arbitrary. It increases the value of some of the RARE II areas.

Emotionalism is fine in trying to get one's ideas and opinions conveyed to another. It is important to know that people feel strongly about that in which they believe. But sheer sensationalism, bitterness and namecalling is unnecessary. Irregardless of how you feel, this sort of thing should be overlooked and the facts carefully weighed in the formation of a decision on such an issue as this. In the hearing in Anaconda there was a certain amount of contradiction in some peoples' statements. These places should be found and the statement examined for value. I realize the importance of political compromise to get such a bill as this off the ground, but at the top of the pile is the ever important point; This is Montana, our home, we are dealing with.

Of the RARE II lands on the Gallatin Forest, the Madison Gallatin Alliance supports certain important areas for wilderness classification. As originally recommended by the RARE II process, we support the Lionhead area of 22,400 acres in Montana and 16,860 acres in Idaho; and the Reef and Republic additions to the North Absaroka Wilderness. We would urge the addition of aproximately 40,000 acres to the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness in several areas around the north end of the Absaroka Range. Several of these areas are quite important to wildlife and all would be a more logical adjustment of the wilderness boundary. The Crazy Mountains are the first major mountains one notices as you come west on the interstate. Geologically intriguing, these mountains offer unique dispersed recreation to many. They really are a wilderness. We support 90,000 acres in the core of these mountains as wilderness.

Two areas of the Crazy Mountains were deleted from the RARE II study as being roaded. One is in the Cottonwood area and the other is in the Porcupine-Sugarloaf area. This type of activity is not good as it leaves an inherent distrust. You will be hearing more from us on this as we get more information.

Lastly, I would urge all of you to read my statement from the Anaconda hearing as well as that of Teresa Kaiserski, who presented the official Madison Gallatin Alliance statement at the hearing. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Meis, president

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much. That concludes this panel.

The next panel is Ed Lord, Lorraine Gillies, Frank Antonioli, Kim Micu, Robert Polish, Max Lapham, Dave Alberi, Bennie Johnson, J. B. Anderson, Paul Johnson, Rod Lewis.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD J. LORD, PRESIDENT, LORD RANCH CO.

Mr. LORD. Members of the congressional delegation, I am Ed Lord, a rancher from Philipsburg, Mont. I was born and raised in Montana and I have lived in Granite County 34 years. I am a past president of the Granite County Farm Bureau and I am currently chairman of the Flink Creek Waterusers Association. I also serve on the executive committee of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Today I am representing myself, the ranchers of Granite County and the nearly 3,000 members of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Montana, and particularly Granite County, has enough wilderness area now. I have visited and enjoyed the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area many times. During all of these visits, I have seen very few other people in the area.

I have also traveled extensively in the proposed Sapphire Mountains area. That is designated as 1-421 on your map. The Sapphire Mountains area does not compare with the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area. It lacks the spectacular scenery, it has many roads, cabins, and considerable mining activity. It is also used, as you've heard this morning, by several ranches for livestock grazing. Contrary to what a lot of people think, it has a great potential for producing timber. It is not a steep area, is rather rolling hills with a lot of timber on it.

I recommend that the Sapphire Mountains area be withdrawn as a proposed wilderness area and placed in a multiple-use classification where it belongs.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much, Ed.

Lorraine Gillies.

STATEMENT OF LORRAINE GILLIES, MONTANA FARM BUREAU

Ms. GILLIES. Senator Baucus, Congressmen Marlenee and Williams and ladies and gentlemen: For the record, I am Lorraine Gillies, rancher, member of the Montana Farm Bureau Board of Directors, chairman of the Montana Farm Bureau Natural and Environmental Resources Committee, and member of that same committee at the American Farm Bureau level.

The Gillies family has been ranching on Rock Creek, west of Philipsburg, for four generations. But since our operation does not involve public lands, my remarks today will be general.

Farm Bureau policy clearly states our opposition to further expansion of the wilderness system, since this no-management policy has proven wasteful and detrimental to our natural resources. We support the multiple-use concept for Federal land. If Montana is to have a stable economy, our natural resources must be prudently managed, not locked up.

Agriculture, as well as the mineral and timber industries of our State, must be encouraged, not hampered by wilderness restrictions. There is sufficient wilderness in Montana and it is time to release the remaining roadless areas from any further study.

Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Max Lapham.

STATEMENT OF MAX LAPHAM, JACKSON, MONT.

Mr. LAPHAM. Senator Baucus and Montana delegation, my name is Max Lapham and I'm from Jackson, Mont.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony concerning the West Big Hole and the West Pioneer Wilderness study areas. I am an outfitter in the Big Hole Valley with 13 years guiding elk, deer, bear, and moose hunters. I'm a fourth generation Big Hole Valley native.

It is my opinion that the West Big Hole should not be considered for wilderness designation. It does not meet the specifications of a roadless area, mainly because there is a Jeep road up every creek in the West Big Hole.

It is, too, an important area for the people of the valley for four-wheel drive recreation as well as for small post and pole sales which the ranchers rely on for ranch fencing materials. It is also a very important area for snowmobile recreation in the winter. The winters are long and hard in the Big Hole area and our snowmobiles are really the only form of recreation available to us during this time of the year.

The West Big Hole is not a wintering area for the elk herd. All of the elk that use this area during the spring, summer and fall move into Idaho for the winter. Because of this, the snowmobiles in the area do no harm whatsoever to the wildlife populations.

The ranchers who hold reserve permits for the West Big Hole use four-wheel drive vehicles to check cattle and haul salt to their stock. They are rightfully concerned about any wilderness designation for this area.

The West Pioneer study area is completely different from the West Big Hole. It supports a thriving elk herd that has been growing for the last 3 to 4 years. The elk in this area depend upon it for survival all year long. The elk herd stays in the area to calve in the spring. They summer near the center of the West Pioneers. In the fall and winter, they use the study area and the area around the boundaries for protection from hunters and also for winter forage.

Two years ago, I believed that I could work with the Forest Service concerning a sound management plan for the West Pioneers. After countless meetings with the personnel of the Wisdom Ranger District, I have come to the conclusion that the elk herd and other wildlife in the area is not really of much concern to them.

What does seem to concern them is how big the road into the area will be and how much timber can be cut, in order to supply the Federal Treasury with some big dollars. If the Forest Service plan for extensive logging and road systems into the heart of the West Pioneer area are allowed, it will place the wildlife in that area in tremendous jeopardy.

The West Pioneer contains several lakes with sizable grayling populations. These fish are attracted to almost anything a fisherman throws at them. There is no way this fishery can survive with a Forest Service specification road by each one of these lakes. I would suggest, at the very least, a wildlife protection area for the West Pioneers. Let's give the wildlife the first consideration and use sound management by the Forest Service for whatever comes in second.

Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS: Dave Alberi.

STATEMENT OF DAVID J. ALBERI, SYSTEM ENGINEER, VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Mr. ALBERI. Senator Baucus, members of the committee, my name is Dave Alberi and I am an engineer for Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Inc., with headquarters at Dillon, Mont.

We serve 4,950 consumers in an area which includes portions of nine counties here in southwestern Montana and a part of Clark County, Idaho. Included in this service area is a large portion of the Beaverhead National Forest plus smaller portions of the Helena and Deer Lodge National Forests. Most of the customers in our 1,500 square mile service area are ranchers and farmers. In addition to these, we serve several small communities plus various small timbering concerns and a few small mining operations.

A large majority of our customers derive a portion of their livelihood either directly or indirectly from lands within the various national forests. The users of these lands are in many cases third and fourth generation users. The operations that have been established and which our system was developed to serve depend on the continued economical use of public lands.

Any action which alters the use of this land or clouds future use can only serve to upset the economic balance established by those people who live and work in southwestern Montana. The past use of lands by the people who live here has proven that these people can work with the existing administrative practices governing these lands.

We hold that responsibility of administering these lands held in the public's trust can be best served by continued multiuse practices which will not only sustain the present generation but insure these mineral and natural resources for the Nation's future.

Vigilante Electric Cooperative opposes any further studies of lands in this area and opposes an additional wilderness in southwestern Montana. We feel that Congress should act now to settle the RARE II issue and release those lands not identified for wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Dave.

Benny Johnson.

STATEMENT OF BENNY A. JOHNSON, JACKSON, MONT.

Mr. JOHNSON. Senator Baucus and the rest of the Montana delegation, I am pleased to be able to provide input to the committee

relative to sufficiency and release legislation on the RARE II study areas.

My name is Benny Johnson, a rancher in the Jackson area and a livestock grazing permittee on the West Big Hole Forest Service area. My address is Jackson, Mont. My concerns are the West Pioneers and the West Big Hole. We need sufficiency and release legislation so that Forest Service and business people can get on with their long-range planning, thereby providing jobs and economic stability throughout the country.

My recommendation for the West Pioneers is no wilderness but with a portion of the area designated as a wildlife protective area. I can be more specific about the West Big Hole as my family has been associated with the area for well over 80 years.

I was born within a few miles of the proposed West Big Hole Wilderness area in 1920 and have lived in the Jackson area all my life. Fifty-six years ago, I helped take cattle to summer pasture in the proposed West Big Hole area wilderness and have made that drive practically every year since, including this year.

This area was not potential wilderness area at that time nor is it now. There are more deer, elk, and moose in the area now than there was over 50 years ago. I have observed that management practices over the past 50 years have not reduced the wildlife population.

I have taken part in many different uses of the area: Mining, timber cutting, cattle grazing; and many forms of recreation: Packhorse trips, hunting, fishing, backpacking, and more recently, motorbiking and snowmobiling. Many other people have taken part in one or more of these activities.

The area basically has changed very little. The Forest Service has managed this area as a multiple-use area, and except for a few mistakes, has done a good job. With the improving Forest Service management as a multiple-use area with the proper restrictions, it will remain basically the same from now on.

The American people can no longer afford the luxury of having thousands of acres set aside for the use of a comparatively very few people to use exclusively for solitude, hiking, and so forth. I want to go on record as opposing any wilderness area in the West Big Hole.

Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Ben.

J. B. Anderson.

STATEMENT OF J. B. ANDERSON, JACKSON, MONT.

Mr. ANDERSON. Senator Baucus, Congressmen Williams and Marlenee, my name is J. B. Anderson. I'm a rancher from Jackson, Mont. I wish to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for the RARE II hearing in Anaconda, Mont., today.

The time has come to resolve the issue of our roadless areas in Montana. Two extensive, expensive studies have been conducted to date. We are facing a third study and we are absolutely no further along in resolving the means of management of our public lands than before these studies were conducted.

All lands studies and placed in the categories of further study and potential wilderness have been held hostage as de facto wilderness for the last 12 years in Beaverhead County. The forest products industry cannot make decisions with regard to future timber purchases because the Forest Service cannot plan timber sales with any degree of predictability on these hostage lands.

We graze cattle on the Ruby Creek allotment in the Beaverhead National Forest. Pioneer Creek, Little Moosehorn Creek and Big Moosehorn Creek allotments of the Beaverhead National Forest lie within the proposed boundary of the West Big Hole proposed wilderness.

Although livestock grazing is specially allowed by the Wilderness Act, such a classification does not contribute to our ranch operation because our grazing permit will likely be reduced if any wilderness resource use is impacted by range management practices or domestic livestock use. Further, no weed control measures are taken in wilderness and efforts by owners of adjacent property to control weeds are hampered.

As more and more lands are withdrawn from public access by motorized means, there is greater pressure on private lands by sportsmen for access to hunting and fishing areas. This situation is tolerable only to a point, depending on the individual property owner; and when that point is reached, the property owner finds it necessary to post his land prohibiting access which strains landowner/sportsmen relations.

The West Big Hole, taken parcel by parcel, certainly has areas which meet criteria for wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act. However, taken as a whole, the area does not meet the requirements for classification as wilderness unless all the boundaries are gerrymandered around roads, ditches, mines, clearcuts, and other visible evidence of man which clearly discerns this area from truly roadless, pristine areas. The West Big Hole is wilderness to me, notwithstanding all the evidence of man and the lack of a capital "W" in the spelling of wilderness. I guess we could call it quasi-wilderness.

I snowmobile in the West Big Hole all winter and I cannot reconcile the fact that I would not be able to snowmobile there even if it were classified as wilderness. The area is not an elk calving ground, there are no endangered species there, it is not grizzly bear or wolf habitat. I have never seen a cross-country ski track in the West Big Hole. A formal classification of wilderness would certainly preclude winter recreation for many local residents in the Big Hole Valley.

I feel that the majority of Montanans and Americans lie in a middle category somewhere between wilderness and nonwilderness and that doctrinaire environmentalists are in a distinct, but very vocal, minority. Those of us who lie in this middle category are never presented with a choice other than the two extremes.

I believe that a reasonable, balanced approach to management of our public lands lies somewhere between wilderness and nonwilderness. A designation which would manage the resources for recreation and wildlife with reasonable amount of logging with limited road construction and subsequent road closures would, I feel,

appeal to a greater segment of our society than a total lockup in wilderness or full-blown development.

Most persons with whom I have talked have indicated to me that they would prefer such a middle ground when they find that there are no roads, no motor vehicles, no buildings, no electricity, no plumbing, no motorboats, no ski lifts, no chain saws, no logging, mining, or oil exploration in wilderness. What is wrong with a fair, balanced approach to the management of our resources?

With over 5 million acres of single-use land already in Montana, I oppose any further wilderness classification in Montana or Beaverhead County. I specifically oppose such classification for the West Big Hole and the East and West Pioneers. I would, however, support a middle ground between wilderness and nonwilderness for parts of these areas.

I appeal to you, Congressmen, and other members of the Montana congressional delegation to consider this middle road and not just the two extremes. Let's not let 1983 go down in history as the year of the great wilderness land grab. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Anderson follows:]

JULY 7, 1983

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
ATTENTION: SENATOR JOHN MELCHER

My name is J.B. Anderson, rancher from Jackson, Montana, and I wish to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for the RARE II hearing here in Anaconda, Montana, today.

The time has come to resolve the issue of our roadless areas in Montana. Two extensive, expensive studies have been conducted to date and we are facing a third study and we are absolutely no further along in resolving the means of management of our public lands than before these studies were conducted. All lands studied and placed in the categories of Further Study and potential Wilderness have been held hostage as de facto Wilderness for the last 12 years in Beaverhead County. The forest products industry cannot make decisions with regard to future timber purchases because the Forest Service cannot plan timber sales with any degree of predictability on these hostage lands.

We grase cattle on the Pioneer Creek, Little Moosehorn Creek and Big Moosehorn Creek allotments of the Beaverhead National Forest which lie within the proposed boundary of the West Big Hole proposed Wilderness. Although livestock grazing is specifically allowed by the Wilderness Act, such a classification does not contribute to our ranch operation because our grazing permit will likely be reduced if any wilderness resource use is impacted by range management practices or domestic livestock use. Further, no weed control measures are taken in Wilderness and efforts by owners of adjacent property to control weeds are hampered.

As more and more lands are withdrawn from public access by motorized means there is greater pressure on private lands by sportsmen for access to hunting and fishing areas. This situation is tolerable only to a point, depending on the individual property owner, and when that point is reached the property owner finds it necessary to post his land prohibiting access which strains landowner/sportsmen relations.

The West Big Hole, taken parcel by parcel, certainly has areas which meet criteria for Wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act. However, taken as a whole, the area does not meet the requirements for classification as Wilderness unless all the boundaries are gerrymandered around roads, ditches, mines, clear cuts and other visible evidence of man which clearly discerns this area from truly roadless, pristene areas. The West Big Hole is wilderness to me notwithstanding all the evidence of man and the lack of a capital W in the spelling of wilderness.

I snowmobile in the West Big Hole all winter and I cannot reconcile the fact that I would not be able to snowmobile there <u>even</u> if it were classified as Wilderness. The area is not an elk calving ground, there are no endangered species there, it is not grizzly bear or wolf habitat, and I have never seen a cross-country ski track in the West Big Hole. A formal classification of Wilderness would certainly preclude winter recreation for many local residents in the Big Hole Valley.

I feel that the majority of Montanans and Americans lie in a middle category somewhere between Wilderness and non-wilderness and that doctrinaire environmentalists are in a distinct, but very vocal minority. Those of us who lie in this middle category are never presented with a choice other than the two extremes.

I believe that a reasonable, balanced approach to management of our public lands lies somewhere between Wilderness and non-wilderness. A designation which would manage the resources for recreation and wildlife with a reasonable amount of logging with limited road construction and subsequent road closures would, I feel, appeal to a greater segment of our society than a total lock-up in Wilderness or total development. Most persons with whom I have talked have indicated to me that they would prefer such a middle ground when they find that there are no roads, no motor vehicles, no buildings, no electricity, no plumbing, no motorboats, no ski lifts, no chainsaws, no logging, mining or oil exploration in Wilderness. What is wrong with a fair, balanced approach to the management of our resources?

A classification of Wilderness for the West Big Hole would be the death knell for the unique character of that forest and the valley itself. People are attracted to areas classified as Wilderness. Because of the great influx of people to these areas the Forest Service is having to limit party size and designate campgrounds. I don't care to see the Big Hole Valley overrun with persons seeking a Wilderness experience and tramping the West Big Hole into the ground. There is certainly no prohibition against backpacking, cross-contry skiing in there right now other than the fact that there is no formal classification as Wilderness.

The doctrinaire environmentalist vision of future famines, pestilence, and apocalyptic wars over dwindling resources is held by a very distinct minority of Americans with defeatist attitudes and squelched hopes. I personally feel that it's a great life if you don't weaken and that we as Montanans can resolve the management of our natural resources and public lands on a fair and equitable basis which lies somewhere between Wilderness and non-wilderness.

With over 5,000,000 acres of single use land already in Montana I oppose any further Wilderness classification in Montana or Beaverhead County and I specifically oppose such classification for the West Big hole and the East and West Pioneers. I would, however, support a middle ground between Wilderness and non-wilderness for parts of these areas.

I appeal to you, Senator Melcher, and other members of the Montana congressional delegation to consider this middle road and not just the two extremes. Let's not let 1983 go down in history as the year of the "REAL" WILDERNESS LAND GRAB. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, J. B.
Paul Johnson.

STATEMENT OF PAUL JOHNSON, JACKSON, MONT.

Mr. JOHNSON. Senator Baucus, Representatives Williams, Marlenee, my name is Paul Johnson. I'm 36 years old, married, with two children. I'm a rancher in Jackson, Mont.

Most everything I have written down has been said about the West Big Hole. But my stand—I'll just read the last little bit here.

Multiple use for the West Big Hole would have many benefits in the long run. The logs and poles which are cut now will benefit people today and in the future, plus make better range for the game and cattle on a long-term basis. The recreational aspect will benefit both young and old, rich and poor.

RARE II was an extensive and satisfactory, and very expensive study; therefore, I expect Congress to get on with releasing this area from wilderness study, add those areas with wilderness qualities to the wilderness system, and to do it before more money is wasted on RARE III.

Thank you for the time to testify.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Husted follows:]

July 7, 1983

To: Mr. Chairman and Subcommittee Members

Name: Paul Johnson Age: 36 years Status: Married, two children

Address: Box #837 Jackson, Montana 59736

Occupation: Rancher, self-employed

I have attended this hearing on the west Big Hole not to reiterate to you statistics regarding the area but possibly I can acquaint you with the Big Hole through my own everyday experiences as I have lived my whole life in the Big Hole Valley. My family has run cattle and horses in the Miner, Hamby, and Engeljard drainages since 1912. I have hunted and fished all along the west side of the Big Hole on both the National Forest and private land.

Through my own experience and according to the Forest Service RARE II Study, the west Big Hole from private land to the Idaho line is for multiple use. Some areas for logging, others for small post and pole cutting, and most all of it good for cattle grazing. With regards to recreation, the whole west side has trails and roads particularly the lower areas which are well suited for 4x4's. As one goes on up further, it is good for cycling (whether it be 3-wheeled or 2-wheeled hondas, etc.), making for easy accessability to mountain lakes and streams for fishing. In the winter months, snowmachines frequent not only the lower parts but the upper extremities of the mountains. With continued multiple-use management, all of the afore-mentioned activities are compatable with hikers, cross-country skiers, and the wild game roaming the areas.

Multiple use for the west Big Hole would have many benefits in the long run. The logs and poles which are cut now, will benefit people today and in the future plus make better range for the game and cattle on a long-term basis. The recreational aspect will benefit both young and old, rich and poor.

RARE II was an extensive and satisfactory, and very expensive study; therefore, I expect Congress to get on with releasing this area from Wilderness study, add those other areas with Wilderness qualities to the Wilderness system, and to do it before more money is wasted on RARE III.

Paul Johnson

Jackson, Montana 59736
July 7, 1983

Sirs:

My name is Vince Husted. I have been a resident of the Big Hole Valley for nine years, involved in the ranching business with my family. I am against any proposal to make the West Big Hole as well as the other areas in question Wilderness.

The idea of wilderness is a primitive, natural state. Since people have lived in the Big Hole this forest (West Big Hole) has provided man with building materials, minerals, grazing, and recreation. All are fundamentally important resources then, and most importantly, NOW. Although managed with care, these uses have left the forest with many roads, fences, mines, and old cabins. This denies the area of being called "natural or primitive".

"Locking up" of this forest for a select few would further undermine an eroding economic base in this area. This would be a grave mistake; for if the forest could be managed with the multiple use concept, it would insure more efficient utilization of our national land and keep the jobs it now supports.

While this hearing is in progress, I will be replacing a drift fence in West Big Hole, between our alotment (Little Lake Creek) and our neighbor's (Gravelle Park). In building this fence we are more efficiently using the range while building it low enough to insure freedom for the movement of the game. Hopefully, you will heed my efforts to show West Big Hole for what it really is and convince our legislators to leave the management of this important resource as it is.

Sincerely,
Vince Husted
Vince Husted
Jackson, Montana 59736

Senator BAUCUS. Rod Lewis.

STATEMENT OF ROD LEWIS, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. LEWIS. Senator, Representatives, and members of the committee, I am Rod Lewis; concern: West Pioneers.

My primary interest in this area is for outfitting. I have invested in my business in this area and have two specific sections of it designated for my clients' usage by the U.S. Forest Service. These clients bring business to the airports, restaurants, motels, and so forth, in the general area. I also employ guides, cooks, and camp roustabouts to work for me.

Our clients have complained about the number of roads in the area at the present time and this project would supposedly bring about over 500 miles of new roads. It would also disturb the elk habitat. Mike Frisina, of the fish and game department, says the checkstand at Mill Creek has more trophy bulls brought in from the West Pioneers than from any other area.

It is also my understanding that the East Pioneers has been or will be designated as a wilderness area and I support this action wholeheartedly.

The West Pioneers is a marvelous year-round recreation area for all citizens for biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, backpacking, fishing, hunting, and a variety of other sports. It would be a shame to disturb one of the few natural areas we have for these activities. It is my understanding that this is not prime timber and it seems to defeat a purpose to lose an exceptionally good item in exchange for a poor one.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my opinions. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. I believe that completes this panel. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. The next panel is Bob Schaap. Margaretha Wessel, Tom Sewell, Robin Beck, Virginia Christenson, Renee Kratka, Teresa Shiner, John McBride, Mrs. Bill Stockton, and John Buck.

Bob Schaap.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT L. SCHAAP, BIG SKY, MONT.

Mr. SCHAAP. I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Bob Schaap. I am an owner and the operator of the Lone Mountain Ranch at Big Sky. I operate the ranch as a guest ranch in the summertime and, also, as a nordic ski center in the wintertime. We employ an average of 24 people and we pump about $600,000 a year into the Bozeman area economy.

During the course of the year when we have the guests of the ranch, I personally talk to about 1,500 people. From my personal experience I can assure you that the reason that these people come to Montana to spend the time there is for the pristine aura of wilderness that we have. It's very important. Most people that come to the ranch are coming from urban areas and to them a vacation to the natural, unspoiled lands of Montana is an experience of a lifetime.

I feel very strongly that only token efforts have been made to quantify the economic impact of land use on the tourism and outdoor use recreation industries. The results have been land use decisions in favor of eroding and logging in many areas where the highest and best economic use would be for recreation, if all the economic factors were properly considered. Tourism and outdoor recreation is big business in Montana. Tourism is the third largest industry in the State. According to the Montana Department of Commerce, tourism is a $1 billion industry supporting over 20,000 jobs. In 1982 over 4 million nonresidents visited the State of Montana.

Last year there were 845,000 visitor days in Montana wilderness areas. Montana rates fourth in the United States in usage of its wilderness areas and, yet, is one of the least populated States in the country. Wilderness users create traffic and revenues for the airlines. They rent cars and buy food and buy equipment and supplies and hire outfitters and guides and go to motels adn restaurants and buy gasoline and bring a lot of new money into the State, and, then, leave. They extract nothing from the land and they don't impact anybody else's later enjoyment of the land.

Tourism and recreation provides stable jobs for Montanans, jobs that are much less impacted by economic situations than are jobs in the logging and mining industries.

We've seen recently the large layoffs which are pretty common in those industries. Tourism hasn't really generated those kinds of problems.

In 1980 the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana conducted a study. This indicated tourism was responsible for 16 percent of the Madison, Park, and Gallatin Counties' economic base and that tourism was the largest contributor to the economic growth of the Bozeman trade area in the seventies.

Montana's hunting and fishing are famous because of our clear waters and large unspoiled roadless and wilderness areas. A recent study completed by the Statistical Center at Montana State University tallied the economic impact of nonresident anglers. Nonresident anglers in Montana spent over $30 million annually. Nonresident and resident use of the Gallatin River Watershed alone generates $5 million a year in the Bozeman area.

Formal studies by the Department of Commerce indicate that the potential traveler to Montana is looking for a Western outdoor experience, rest and relaxation, history, and, particularly, a scenic experience in a clean and relatively undeveloped environment.

Land use decisions are often based on cost/benefit analyses which are short run in scope and because of their empirical nature, fail to accurately account for aesthetic and water quality as they impact the tourism and recreation industries. Substantial roading and logging in drainages feeding the Gallatin River would increase siltation. The fishing would suffer and the $5 million fishing industry on the Gallatin River would decline. The upper Gallatin and the drainages feeding it are important winter habitat for Yellowstone's elk. If this habitat is substantially changed, the size of the winter elk range would be reduced and that would reduce the number of elk in the Yellowstone area. That would impact the visi-

tors to Yellowstone. It would impact the hunting and the outfitting industries.

I recommend that, in deciding which of the RARE II lands to release, you evaluate very carefully the long-range impact of your actions on Montana's fishing, tourism, outfitting, guest ranches, skiing, rafting, hunting and snowmobile industries. If you make the wrong decision and go too far in releasing lands, irreversible harm will be done.

The lands included in the boundary of the Montana wilderness study area, as expanded by the additional RARE II boundary, are de facto wilderness areas. Any significant reduction in those areas will have negative impacts.

I urge you to vigorously pursue land trades with Burlington Northern to consolidate landholding in the Porcupine, Buffalo Horn, and Hyalite areas north and northwest of Yellowstone Park. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Schaap follows:]

Prepared Statement of Robert L. Schaap

I am Bob Schaap, the operator and an owner of the Lone Mountain Ranch at Big Sky. I operate the Ranch as a guest ranch and as a nordic ski center. During the course of a year I personally talk to about 1,500 guests from all over the world. From my personal experience I can assure you that the reason my guests come to Montana is the unspoiled aura of wilderness. Most visitors come from urban areas and, to them, a vacation to the natural unspoiled lands of Montana is one of the finest experiences of their lives.

Over the years there have been many heated discussions dealing with the designation of wilderness areas. On the pro wilderness side the arguments are generally based on aesthetics, protection of the environment and other hard to quantify subjective values. The arguments against wilderness tend to be based on economic terms such as revenue, jobs and taxes. Only token efforts have been made to quantify the potential economic impacts of land use decisions on the tourism and outdoor recreation industries. The results have been land use decisions in favor of roading and logging in many areas where the highest and best economic use would have been recreation if all economic factors were properly considered.

Tourism and outdoor recreation is big business in Montana. Tourism is the third largest industry in the state. According to the Montana Department of Commerce, tourism is a one billion dollar industry supporting over 20,000 jobs. In 1982 over 4 million non-residents visited Montana.

Last year there were 845,000 visitor days in Montana wilderness areas. Montana rated 4th in the United States in usage of its wilderness areas and yet is one of the least populated states. Wilderness users create traffic and revenues for the airlines. They rent cars. They buy food. They buy equipment and supplies. They hire outfitters and guides. They go to motels and restaurants. They buy gasoline. They bring new money into our state and leave. They extract nothing from the land and do not impact other's later enjoyment of the land. Wilderness users provide stable jobs for Montanans, jobs that are much less impacted by economic fluctuations than are jobs in the extractive logging and mining industries where large layoffs are common.

In 1980 The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana published a study entitled "The Bozeman Area Economy." This study indicated that tourism was responsible for 16% of the Madison, Park and Gallatin countys' economic base and that tourism was the largest contributor to the economic growth of the Bozeman trade area in the 70's.

Montana's hunting and fishing are famous because of our clear waters and large unspoiled roadless and wilderness areas. A recent study completed by the Statistical Center at Montana State University tallied the economic impact of non-resident anglers. Non-resident anglers in Montana spent over $30 million annually. Non-resident and resident use of the Gallatin River water shed alone generates $5 million a year in the Bozeman area.

Formal studies by the Department of Commerce reveal that "the potential traveler to Montana is looking for a Western outdoor experience, rest and relaxation, history and particularly a scenic experience in a clean and relatively undeveloped environment."

Land use decisions are often based on cost/benefit analyses which are short run in scope and, because of their empirical nature, fail to accurately account for aesthetics and water quality as they impact the tourism and recreation industries. Substantial roading and logging in drainages feeding the Gallatin River would increase siltation. The fishing would suffer and the $5 million fishing industry on the Gallatin River would decline. The upper Gallatin and the drainages feeding it are important winter habitat for Yellowstone's elk. If this habitat is substantially changed, the size of the elk winter range would be reduced which would reduce the number of elk that visitors would see in Yellowstone and would adversely impact hunters and the outfitting industry. If areas surrounding our Ranch are too heavily logged, roaded or developed, we could not continue to attract guests and would not survive.

I recommend that, in deciding which of the RARE II lands to release, you evaluate very carefully the long range impact of your actions on Montana's fishing, tourism, outfitting, guest ranches, skiing, rafting, hunting and snowmobiling industries. If you make the wrong decision and go too far in releasing lands, irreversible harm will be done to the industries depending on natural areas.

The lands included in the boundry of the Montana Wilderness Study Area, as expanded by the additional RARE II boundry, are defacto wilderness areas. Any significant reduction in this area will have negative impacts. I urge you to vigorously pursue land trades with Burlington Northern to consolidate land holding in the Porcupine/Buffalo Horn and Hyalite areas and to protect these areas from roading and logging. These areas are simply too valuable from an economic and environmental standpoint to sacrifice them to satisfy short term goals.

I propose a new designation for public lands, which could be named "Roadless Recreation Areas." This designation could permit some activities such as snowmobiling - now prohibited in wilderness areas - but would permanently restrict roading and extractive uses of the land.

Thank you for your consideration on this testimony.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Margaretha Wessel.

STATEMENT OF MARGARETHA WESSEL, BOZEMAN, MONT.

Ms. WESSEL. I'm Margaretha Wessel of Bozeman, Mont. I have to say I'm terribly pleased to have been called this morning by the gentleman a nonmotorized juvenile. Since I'm a mother and grandmother, that hit the spot. More properly, I'm a member of the Society of State.

I'm a professional educator, a biologist. I have a Ph. D. in biology and I'm a volunteer worker in conservation organizations.

I urge you to accept alternative W as the only thoughful and ecologically sound proposal at this time.

Wilderness, with all its genetic diversity and ecological interaction, is never created, nor recreated. It's gone and that's it. Once destroyed it loses its unique character forever.

Once this country was all wilderness. Now let us be enlightened citizens and trade short-term profits for long-range, scientifically sound goals so that we not only preserve some small parcels of this original country for today, but for the future, for our children, and for our grandchildren. Let us not be the generation which sold the last areas of wilderness down the polluted river.

Remember that less than 4 percent of Montana is a designated wilderness now. For God's sake, let that not be the final percentage of wildland in Montana.

I think of wilderness as sort of like having money in the bank, both genetically, ecologically, and as places to think about. Let's save some for a rainy day. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Tom Sewell. Tom is not here. Robin Beck. Virginia Christenson.

Ms. JOHNSTON. I'm Harriet Johnston. I'm taking Virginia Christenson's place.

Senator MELCHER. Harriet Johnston.

STATEMENT OF HARRIET JOHNSTON, LIVINGSTON, MONT.

Ms. JOHNSTON. I'm Harriet Johnston from Livingston, Mont. I represent at this testimony a very small group of very interested citizens about a small area in the Gallatin Forest. We wish make a plea to protect a portion of the Gallatin National Forest as wilderness or, at least, to classify it as alternative W for study.

This area is near Livingston between Mission and Little Mission Creeks, along Tie Creek. I think it's called the Tie Creek Gulch in the Forest Service study.

The Forest Service has immediate plans to build 7½ miles of roads in this very small area to log all of it clearcut right up to private boundary lines and to creek edges. This is an area I have ridden or hiked over for 20 years and this treatment would really cause irreparable damage to the wildlife and terrain.

My husband and I have a small cattle ranch we bought in 1960 surrounded on three sides by this area. About 10 years or more ago the Forest Service logged a small bit of it along Mill Fork, which is near the county road. This showed what damage is done by roads and logging.

The trees were not good for lumber so a series of subcontractors cut trees, went broke, and then another one moved in. He also cut trees, went broke, and moved out. This went on for three more subcontractors. The roads were not put to sleep as the Forest Service promised. Weeds grew, creeks were blocked, the land eroded. Poachers and firewood gatherers made deep ruts in the old roads and cut new roads into other areas. There was no supervision by the Forest Service. The ranchers along the county road had gates left open, cattle guards bent, dust, and danger to children and riders along the road for the speeding log trucks.

Worst of all, old broken down logjammers and trucks were abandoned to increase the beauty of the area.

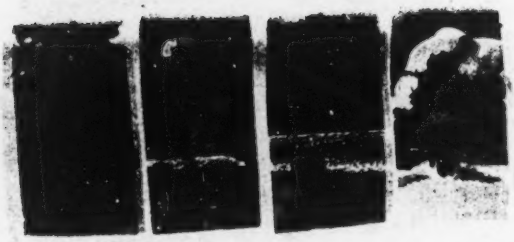
Those of us who love and work our land surrounded by this forest land strongly vote for wilderness classification to keep this a roadless area, which we will really be proud of and will enjoy later on.

I have one other letter here that defines the area just a little more fully. This land is predominantly of a north slope pasture being very steep in nature with fragile, unstable soil that does not lend itself to roadbuilding or logging.

We can attest in a very positive and legitimate way to the futility of roadbuilding and the damage caused through logging in this area as we purchased land which has recently been logged that adjoins this land.

I think that's all. Everything important, I think, has been said. Thank you very much.

[Statements of Ms. Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. Cox follow:]



Visit MONTANA the BIG SKY Country

July 7, 1983

Dear Members of the Public Lands Subcommittee,

I wish to make a plea to protect a portion of the Gallatin National Forest as Wilderness or at least to classify it as "Alternative W" for study. This area is near Livingston between Mission and Little Mission Creeks, along The Creeks. The Forest Service has immediate plans to build 7½ miles of roads in this small area to log all of it right up to private boundary lines and to creek edge. This is area I have ridden on horseback for 20 years and this treatment would cause irreparable damage to wild life and terrain.

My husband and I bought a small cattle ranch in 1960 surrounded on three sides by this area. About 10 years or more ago the Forest Service logged along North Fork near the county road. This showed what damage is done by roads and logging. The trees were not good for lumber so a series of subcontractors cut trees, but broke and another moved in. The new contractor did the same: cut trees, but broke and left the mess. The roads were not put to sleep as well grew, creeks were blocked, the land eroded. Poachers and fire wood gatherers made rutes in the old roads and cut new roads into other areas. There was no supervision by the Forest Service. The ranchers along the county road had gates left open, cattle grounds lost, dust, and danger to children and riders along the road for speed of trucks used of all old broken down log jacks and trucks were abandoned to increase the "trashy" look of the area.

LAZY S BAR H
Charles and Hickey Johnston
LIVINGSTON, MONTANA 59047

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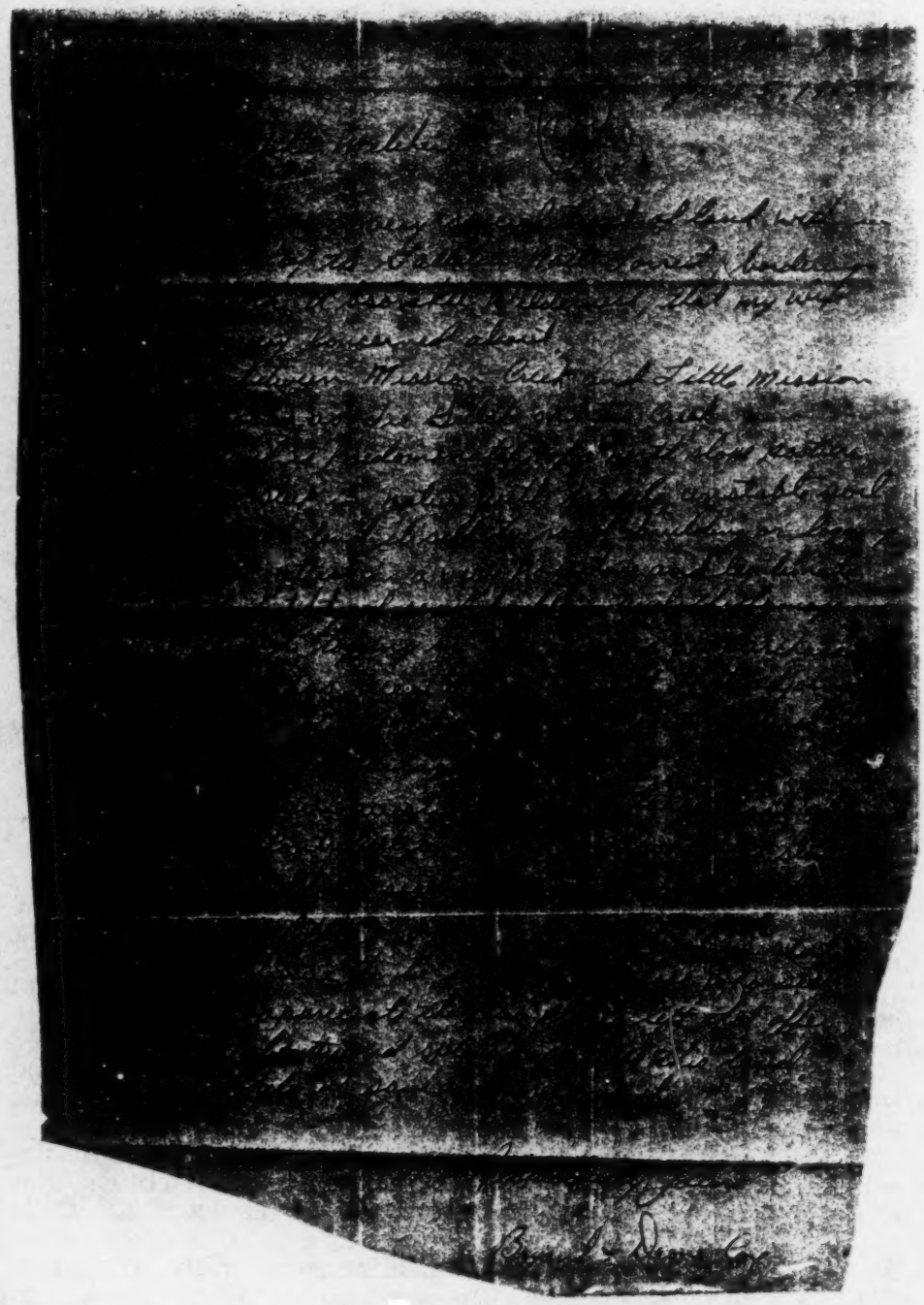
Those of us who live and work on land surrounded by this Forest land strongly vote for Wilderness classification to keep this a roadless area. If classify "Alternative W" to allow study. If released it should be "Soft Release"

Sincerely — Harriet Johnston



Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Teresa Shiner.

STATEMENT OF TERESA SHINER, BUTTE, MONT.

Ms. SHINER. Members of the committee, my name is Teresa Shiner. I would like to welcome our Congressmen back to their beautiful home and thank you for the opportunity to express my deeply felt opinion. All of you must share the urgency of this issue as you make yourselves so available to us, the people of Montana, however diverse and redundant in our remarks.

I must appologize for my nervousness, but not for the statements. Some of my thoughts. As a native of Butte I can't believe that mining and any operations in connection with it give any community a long-range economic security. It is as obvious as the gaping pit in the hill. Mining companies take the riches from the Earth and leave destruction behind.

I speak with honesty and knowledge about what people from all over the country and the world come to Montana to see. For the past three summers I have run a tourist information booth in Butte. People don't come to see a clearcut, or hike up a pitted logging road, or view a pit, or coalstrip. They don't drive long distances and spend a lot of money to be reminded of their hurried and demanding lives. They come to the last place in the lower 48 to fish, hunt, hike, cross-country ski, maybe just to climb a mountain, or sit undisturbed with the companionship of the wind, water, and Earth from where we all came.

This generation is speedily using up totally beyond any recall a very important right that belongs to future generations, the right to have wilderness in their civilization even as we have had it. This wilderness and its availability are a requirement for people to sustain a standard of life, a high standard we have foolishly taken for granted in Montana.

It is predicted by the year 2000 there will be 400 million people in the United States. Those people will need a quiet walk in a very noisy world.

We have an ever more strictly rationed resource of natural beauty, a beauty and a resource that must be here long after we move onward and are using nondestructive resources. We need places that are not on display like national parks. We need wild back country. Wildness and its experience are important and must be here or the world is a cage.

Working in a hospital, I have seen people's painful conditions unrelieved by my and medicine's best efforts and good intentions. But when you get an oldtimer talking about his fishing in the lakes near the Big Hole River, his eyes light up and pain is over some distant ridge. There is definitely a healing power in the wild lands. We owe it to ourselves and to the good Earth that supports us to leave a few more spots untouched and unexploited.

The one thing that must be stressed when the last remaining land is tampered with, there is no going back. It is gone forever. This land was formed eons ago before us and it is hard for me to understand any of our shallow and short-lived rationalizations to destroy it for an eternity.

Too often we forget that we are creatures on this limited globe. We need to refresh ourselves in the interdependence of life and find our place more humbly.

I can't argue in board feet or a promise of just 1 more gallon of gas. These places and their value are beyond our small types of measurements.

My personal experience in the Tobacco Roots, the beautiful Crazy Mountains, the Flint Creeks, and in the area called the West Big Hole Mountains are of the best times of my life. I love living in southwestern Montana and a part of my home is delighting in these places.

I strongly feel the places talked of should be protected with the wilderness title. I strongly advocate soft release of the remaining 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness by conservationists.

Today I heard a song saying you can't change the world. How refreshing that you are asked to save areas that need no change, that ask for no money. The wilderness is not there for you to create, just to come to the proud and timely task to have it when we are gone. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Jay Vest.

STATEMENT OF JAY VEST, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. VEST. Greetings. My name is Jay Vest. I'm from Missoula. I'm formerly a U.S. civil servant, served 11 years as forester and wilderness specialist. Now, in the past 3 years, I have been a researcher and writer.

First of all, I would like to address two erroneous notions which have been voiced today. One, wilderness by no means is growing. No one can seriously believe that we will have more wilderness tomorrow. Many de facto wildernesses will certainly be lost under any course of action we may take. No. 2, wilderness is not a single-use activity. It is multiple use. After all, wilderness is the source. It's the source of all landed activities. It is a delusion to suggest otherwise.

Conversely, logging, mining, oil and gas development are all hard single-use activities which destroy the lands' capacity for soft uses. For example, during a 1-year period in Wyoming I personally observed the illegal, immoral destruction of over one-fifth of the Red Desert elk herd, the only desert elk herd left in the country although the elk were a plains animal. Two drilling rigs completed this feat.

The sad economic woes of Butte and Anaconda and other parts of Montana cannot be rectified by ripping up the last wildernesses. The question must be asked do we have a wilderness-dependent economy. If the answer to that question is yes, that we should develop the remaining wildlands, we in this State and country are in serious trouble.

Over 96 percent of the land is available for hard economic purposes. The remaining 3 percent has been reviewed, prospected, and photographed by satellites and miners up and down. There are no bonanzas of hard resources there for the development. Our wilderness economy age is dead. We must move to establish a steady,

stable economy which can be maintained on a perpetual basis without sacrificing the remaining wildlands.

In Montana we are fortunate to have a small population with the best remaining wildlands of lower America. If we sacrifice these lands, the costs will be enormous. Among the costs will be our mental health.

In Montana we have no Los Angeles or New York or New Jersey. Wilderness historian Robert Nash reported in 1978 that 10 incurable mentally insane persons were taken into wilderness. On the return to civilization, eight were reported cured and the other two showed remarkable improvement. This is an outstanding commentary on the effects of wilderness therapy.

We cannot afford to sacrifice our mental health in Montana for the hard development of these few wildlands. But the real reason to preserve some of these wildlands is not what we can get from them for ourselves. Why should all the creations of life be created for the one critter?

Consequently, as a three-thousandth-generation earthling, I oppose the homocenturism that would develop these lands. Some land must retain the wildness. If we have any sense of justice whatsoever, any regard for the other beings on the Earth with us today, we must preserve some wildlands for the wildlands' own sake.

Alternative W is a moderate proposal which should not be further compromised nor should we have hard release on those 3 million acres.

Senator MELCHER. John McBride.

STATEMENT OF JOHN McBRIDE, TROUT UNLIMITED, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Thank you. My name is John McBride. I live at 3111 Carter Street, Butte, Mont. I'm speaking today on behalf of the Butte area chapter of Trout Unlimited. There are roughly 150 members of Trout Unlimited in the Butte area. Nationally, Trout Unlimited has as its purpose the preservation and enhancement of trout fishing and trout habitat. Locally, the Trout Unlimited chapter was organized to help protect the Big Hole River Watershed. The Big Hole River has always been the local chapter's top priority.

Trout Unlimited is a member of the Big Hole River Watershed Coalition and we support wilderness designation for the West Big Hole, East Pioneers, North Big Hole, and protection from logging in the West Pioneers as a means of protecting the Big Hole River Watershed.

The Big Hole is a nationally known blue ribbon trout stream. Experienced guides who work the river report having customers who have returned every year for 20 or more years. The Big Hole River is also home to the arctic grayling. In the United States, the grayling is a native only of Alaska, Michigan, and Montana. In the lower 48, the Big Hole is one of the few rivers where an angler can reasonably expect to catch a grayling. Even this fishery may be under some stress as the Montana Fish and Game Commission has instituted a catch-and-release regulation on the Big Hole.

The history of the grayling in Michigan can be instructive to us in Montana. One can find the town of Grayling in Michigan, but the fish itself is extinct. The disappearance of the grayling in Michigan was caused by a number of factors, not the least of which was extensive logging and the accompanying siltation of the fish's habitat.

In Montana we have a chance to avoid the mistakes made in Michigan and preserve the habitat of this elusive fish. By protecting the headwaters of the Big Hole we can help preserve the habitat of the grayling along with the rest of the famous Big Hole fishery.

The headwaters of the Big Hole are now largely roadless. In part, because of this, fishermen report that the Big Hole remains fishable longer in the spring than either the Jefferson or the Madison. Trout Unlimited wants to see the Big Hole stay that way. The value of the Big Hole River fishery as a national resource is incalculable. Thus, we believe that the preservation of this resource is essential to the Nation and the people of Montana.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you.

Mrs. Bill Stockton.

STATEMENT OF SUZANNE STOCKTON

Ms. STOCKTON. I'm Suzanne Stockton. My husband and I own and operate an outfitting business west of Wise River. We've lived and operated our business almost 20 years.

From a personal as well as a business point of view, we recommend for the West Pioneer Range a wilderness status.

As outfitters, we live with the game populations 12 months a year in this area and strongly feel commercial development would be extremely detrimental to the game populations. According to the Fish and Game Commission, in 1981 the elk harvest of the West Pioneers was 360, 126 branch antler bulls, 119 spikes, showing a large percentage of branch antler bulls.

The timber harvest in the area would produce more grass and eliminate the timber necessary for the elk. The West Pioneers are largely noted for the trophy class bulls taken here, which is a drawing card for the industry in this area.

We also show a winter count of almost 2,000 elk with a cow-calf ratio of 53 calves for 100 cows. This is an extremely high ratio, one we could not possibly sustain if this area is developed for logging or mining.

My husband and I want to be on record as in favor of a wilderness classification for the West Pioneers. We would like our children and theirs to see the country and the game in it as we do.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

John Buck.

STATEMENT OF JOHN BUCK, WISDOM, MONT.

Mr. BUCK. Thank you. Senator and Congressmen, my name is John Buck and I ranch in the Big Hole near Mussigbrod Lake. My chief concern up there is the road that they are putting in back behind Jim Welch's ranch from Pintlar Creek into Plimpton. The main concern I have there is I've hunted that area for 15 years,

ever since I could hunt, and, when you are in there, the elk are not just the elk that stay there, but they are coming in there from the Bitterroot because of the heavy pressure they are getting on the other side.

Anybody that's hunted in there—we've shot elk that have been tagged from the Bitterroot herd. They'll come in there and it's sort of a safe spot for them from the pressure.

If you put roads in the Plimpton Creek, then, they are going to have pressure from both sides.

Everybody says how big the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness is. I can walk from my ranch over to the roads in the Bitterroot in a day. I'm always running into other hunters on the Continental Divide coming up from the Bitterroot. So if you put the darn access in on the Big Hole side as well as on the Bitterroot side, you are going to put the elk in a hell of a squeeze.

Also, you can say they still have the wilderness that is there. Late in the fall they don't. The elk have to get low to get the feed and they are down actually on Jim Welch's grazing ground and on his actual deeded—but mainly on the forest grazing permit of Welch's.

You know, that's where this logging is going to be. If that's logged out, then, where do they go, back in the wilderness in snow up to your knees? They'll stay in there and, then, they'll move out after the hunting season.

I have been there late Thanksgiving time and there's snow to your knees and there's tracks going back. There's 80 or 90 elk that stay in there and calve. They calve right where they are wanting to do the logging. Anybody knows what kind of a disruption that can be.

As far as the water for the Big Hole River, that is something that definitely has—a person has to be concerned about it because we ranch down at Twin Bridges on the Big Hole River and we drew water out of the Big Hole for irrigation. Some years it is terribly low.

I think that I would support this alternative W. It would probably be a safe way to go. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Chris Marchion.

STATEMENT OF CHRIS MARCHION, ANACONDA, MONT.

Mr. MARCHION. My name is Chris Marchion from Anaconda. I'm speaking as an individual sportsman and not for an organized group.

I wish to address the RARE II area in the Deer Lodge National Forest and Beaverhead National Forest that is most familiar to me. I am a native of Anaconda and have enjoyed these recreational areas since my father began taking me fishing and hunting at the age of 6. I also spent 8 years working as a logger and have seen the pluses and minuses of the industry as it relates to the RARE II areas.

The predominant use for the RARE II areas over the last 100 years has been for recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, camping, support of wildlife and fishing habitat, scenic beauty, and a

remote sanctuary away from the developed areas. Development of timber and mineral resources in these areas has been limited or nonexistent. In some of the areas development of timber or mineral resources would either eliminate or permanently destroy the recreational resources which have been the primary use of this land. For this reason I support a wilderness designation for the RARE II areas known as the West Big Hole, West Pioneers, East Pioneer Mountains, Mussigbrod, Howell Creek, and Storm Lake addition to the Pintlar Wilderness.

In considering the RARE II areas known as Sapphire Mountains and Flint Creek Range, I am not confident that these areas should be wilderness. These areas provide excellent opportunities for hunting in rugged, remote areas, and contain some excellent fisheries. These areas are heavily timbered and most of the timber is mature or overmature. The scenic qualities are not as great as in the surrounding wilderness areas.

In this area it takes 120 to 150 years to develop a mature stand of timber. With that much time invested in this timber resource, I feel it is a crime to make the area a wilderness and let the resources rot away. However, I feel it would be an even greater crime to develop this area in any manner similar to the way the adjoining areas such as East Fork of the Rock Creek, Sand Basin, Coal Creek, and West Fork Butte have been developed. These areas are managed as multiple use. They contain 300 to 600 area clear cuts, one right next to the other. Permanent roads exist where none were before, or they replace poor Jeep trails. Additional graze created by logging is totally used up by grazing permits for agriculture. Recreational use and wildlife habitat are one of the multiple uses managed, but they are given the last priority after timber, mineral, and agricultural use.

The Sapphire and Flint Creek areas would be best served by a policy that would place primary emphasis on maintaining or enhancing recreational and wildlife uses which are the current predominant use in these areas. A properly planned timber harvest could utilize a mature and wasting resource and provide a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

Mineral and agriculture use should be limited to their current level.

If we can conceive of a plan that would guarantee this type of development, then a, wilderness designation is not needed.

If we cannot guarantee that the current predominant use and values of these areas will continue to be a primary goal of development, then, give the Sapphires and Flint Creek Range a wilderness designation so that we will continue to enjoy the recreational and wildlife resources as we have the past 100 years. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Dick Solum.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD SOLUM, BUTTE, MONT.

Mr. SOLUM. My name is Dick Solum from Butte. Mr. Marlenee was poking fun at me a minute ago, so I would like to poke a little fun at Mr. Marlenee. I only brought three pictures that I stapled right to my testimony, and I would like the other three Congress-

men to pass them down so Mr. Marlenee understands what a wilderness is.

Gentlemen, I would like to go on the official hearing record as being supportive of wilderness designation for certain specific areas and for certain specific reasons.

The first reason for my support of wilderness is strictly selfish. I enjoy, appreciate, and heavily use the areas under consideration for wilderness. I backpack, hunt, take photographs, and fish extensively throughout the Beaverhead and Deer Lodge National Forests. I realize that we can never go back in time and create more wilderness, only preserve some of the best of what is still left.

My second reason for supporting wilderness designation has to do with being a boy scout leader for the past 8 years. Our troop has backpacked extensively in the East and West Pioneers and the West Big Hole area. Two weeks ago we hiked in to four different lakes in the Flint Range. The wild and scenic experiences these boys participated in could never have been duplicated if these areas were roaded and clear-cut.

I think of the vision and foresight that Montana had when areas like Glacier Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the Pintlars were established. Thank you in advance for your assistance on behalf of Montana's youth.

Senator. MELCHER. Thank you very much. That completes this panel. We have a couple of letters that will be made a part of the record. Thank you all very much.

The next panel is comprised of Walt Urick, Dolores Husted, Alma Nye, Lee Spuhler, John Ulrich, Donna Bianchi, Ward Jackson, Ray Hammitt, Connie Nicholas, and Dorothy Alley.

STATEMENT OF WALT URICK, MELROSE, MONT.

Mr. URICK. I'm a rancher down here at Melrose between Divide and Melrose, a 15,000-acre ranch, family affair. We lease BLM and Forest Service State land. We pay about $7,000 a year lease. You get to use the lease about 3 months but we still pasture the game 12 months of the year. But we're not complaining.

What's got us kind of worried right now is this weed situation. You hear of all the wilderness but you never hear of any way of controlling weeds. I still think to make it wilderness, we've got to consider getting rid of them weeds. The way this wilderness looks to me, it's just like an unbroke horse: Until he's broken, he's no good. I still say this wilderness should be used but not abused. That's about all I have to say on this.

Senator. MELCHER. Dolores Husted.

STATEMENT OF DOLORES HUSTED, MONTANANS FOR PROTECTION OF BIG HOLE

Ms. HUSTED. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the occasion to appear at this hearing and also wish to thank our entire Montana delegation for taking time from your recess to chair this hearing.

My name is Dolores Husted, I am a cattle rancher's spouse and a permittee on the Jackson area of the Big Hole Valley.

Today I am representing Montanans for Protection of the Big Hole. We are a citizens group, an association of some 60 members

representing local operators on private and public lands and other related businesses. Our group has been duly concerned about the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal's decision last year as it may impose a RARE III study of the West Big Hole and the West Pioneers. These two study areas form the perimeters of the Big Hole basin.

We do support development of sufficiency legislation declaring that the RARE II process is legally sufficient for the State of Montana. It should include language for release of nonwilderness areas as well as agreed-upon wilderness areas.

We feel the requirements for a third study with an estimated cost of between $15 and $30 million, a time element of up to 2 years to complete is absurd and unwarranted.

Upon reviewing the proposed management plan, we found it addressed these study areas adequately and fairly. We found the DEIS summary of these two areas to be in line with personal observations made.

Considering that other States have recently passed sufficiency legislation to eliminate the requirement for a third study, why not the great State of Montana? Our forest lands have been locked up in de facto wilderness areas for 10 years. We believe that is enough study. The time has come to get legislation rolling so that the Forest Service can continue to prepare and issue forest plans without the threat of litigation.

Our concerns on wilderness proposals for the West Big Hole and the West Pioneers include the lack of specific language and the guidelines of wilderness legislation that would provide the management of livestock in a practical and efficient manner. We point out that wilderness criteria alone does not have all the impact to save the blue ribbon Big Hole River. A major factor is the protection private landholders have given by leaving brush and vegetation cover to stabilize the banks and provide shades for fisheries.

We have not surrendered to a plow down that would impact the river. We're not in favor of wilderness to broaden our economic base. Private landholders in the valley believe theirs is a cattle country and do not conform to the idea of overcommercialization to make money. Commercial enterprises catering to a one-land use are incompatible with our way of life which needs to be preserved.

We believe that Montana has its share of wilderness areas with pending legislation of Congress and the Lee Metcalf designation. We support a management plan of multiple use for the West Big Hole and West Pioneers, with guaranteed language in the guidelines that will assure protection of the elk herds and alpine lakes in the West Pioneers. We feel some areas of the West Pioneers should be managed with emphasis on wildlife and other interests as secondary.

Outdoor recreations play a very important part of the use concept of these areas. Therefore, to lock them up to a one-land use denies the citizenry their share of participating in public land use. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Husted follows:]

PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FIELD HEARING - ANACONDA, MT.
July 7, 1983
STATEMENT OF DOLORES HUSTED

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the occasion to appear at this hearing and also wish to thank you for taking time from your recess to Chair this hearing. My name is Dolores Husted, I am a cattle ranchers spouse and a permittee in the Jackson area of the Big Hole Valley. My address is Jackson, Mt. Today I am representing "Montanans for Protection of the Big Hole." We are a citizens group, an association of some 60 members representing local operators on private and public lands and other related businesses. Our group has been duly concerned about the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal decision last year as it may impose a Rare III study of the West Big Hole and West Pioneers. These two managment areas form the perimeters of the Big Hole Basin. This Valley consists of private lands and is some 75 miles long and varies in breadth from 10 miles to 35 miles.

We support development of sufficiency legislation declaring that the Rare II process is legally sufficient for the State of Montana. It should include language for release of non-wilderness areas as well as agreed upon wilderness areas. We feel the requirements for a third study with a estimated cost of between 15 and 30 million dollars, a time element of up to two years to complete is absurd and unnecessary. Upon reviewing the proposed management plan for the West Big Hole and West Pioneers we found it addressed these study areas adequately and fairly. We found the DEIS summary of these two areas to be in line with personal observations made of said areas.

Considering that Colo., N.M., Alaska, Mo., W.Va, and Ind. recently passed sufficiency legislation to eliminate the requirement for a third study, why not the great State of Montana, where the federal government manages one third of the total land area. Our forest lands have been locked up in de-facto wilderness study areas for ten years. We believe that is enough study. The time has come to get legislation rolling so that the Forest Service can continue to prepare and issue Forest plans with out the threat of litigation.

My further comments address the concerns of the group I represent on wilderness proposals for the West Big Hole and West Pioneers.

Maintaining our ranches in the Big Hole as economic units is tied directly to the use of public lands. In like manner the tax base of Beaverhead County and the economy of the local business people has a direct affect on whether or not we maintain a stable livestock industry. The Wilderness Act of 1964 permits grazing of livestock within wilderness areas. However, the guidelines and committee language that was compatible with stockgrowers pertaining to grazing in wilderness was declared illegal by the legal advisors of the United Stated Agriculture Department. The policy being implemented by the department of Agriculture states "that grazing will be governed by the need to protect wilderness." Since the time this statement was issued we have received a copy of the summary guidelines for grazing in wilderness areas, provided by our local Forest Service. The document is vague, containing alot of may or may not situations. How efficient a permittee may utlize the wilderness grazing areas is going to depend on a "allotment management plan on a case to case basis." This will be applied in a uniform manner in all National Forest wilderness." To continue to operate in a wilderness grazing area, from a economic as well a a management standpoint,

we as permittees want to know the rules. Guaranteed language is needed in the guidelines. Guaranteed language is needed to assure the use of motorized vechiles to care for the needs of livestock. These assurances would promote the belief that grazing is a viable conern. They would provide for the ways and means of reasonable operations in wilderness areas. Most permittees do not have the option of using primitive means of the early 1900's to manage their livestock on the range. As this specific language seems remote and unlikely to be included in any wilderness legislation is a primary reason we cannot endorse wilderness areas for either the West Big Hole or West Pioneers.

It has been said that "wilderness is needed to protect the status of the Blue Ribbon Big Hole River." However, we know that the private land owner has had a great deal of impact on the Big Hole River. As prudent stewards, land operators have left ample protection of these creeks, streams, and the river itself as they course their channels thru acres and miles of private lands in the Valley Floor. Willows, brush, and vegetative cover are left to stabalize the banks and to provide shade for the fisheries. The lands have not suffered a plow down that would affect the "Blue Ribbon Trout River." Wilderness criteria alone does not have all the impact to save the Big Hole River.

It has been suggested that wilderness could broaden our economic base. However, private land holders say this is cattle country and we do not conform to the idea of over-commercialization to make money. Commerical enterprises catering to a one land use are incompatible with our unique life style that needs preservation.

The West Big Hole and West Pioneers are within 18 miles of the Anaconda Pintlar wilderness area, therefore the need of any more wilderness in the Big Hole is unwarranted. We believe that Montana has it share of

wilderness areas with pending action of Congress on the Lee Metcalf designation. We support the proposed management plan of multiple use for the West Big Hole and West Pioneers, with guaranteed language in the guidelines that will assure protection of the elk herds and alpine lakes in the West Pioneers. We feel the West Pioneers should be managed with emphasis on wild life and other interests as secondary.

Outdoor recreations play a very important part of the use concept of these areas, therefore to lock them up to a one land use denies the citizenery their share of participating in public land use.

On behalf of Montanans for Protection of the Big Hole, I again express appreciation for time to present testimony.

Senator MELCHER. Lee Spuhler.

STATEMENT OF LEE SPUHLER, VICE PRESIDENT, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. SPUHLER. My name is Lee Spuhler, I am vice president of the Beaverhead County Chamber of Commerce. The Beaverhead Chamber represents a cross-section of Beaverhead County commerce: Manufacturing, agriculture, professionals, service establishments, and individuals. Our present membership is 150 and a membership list of our association is attached to this statement. The two largest industrial payrollers in Beaverhead County are Pfizer Inc., and F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co.

The Beaverhead Forest land management plan and report indicates there are just slightly less than 3 million acres of existing wilderness and primitive areas within 70 miles of Dillon, the county seat of Beaverhead County. Our State has 16.6 percent of the acreage of the wilderness system for the contiguous United States. Therefore, we think that Beaverhead County and Montana have contributed more than their share of single-use land.

A poll taken for the Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce by Dr. William O'Connor, Western Montana College, shows that approximately 10 percent of the people interviewed were in favor of more wilderness in Beaverhead County; whereas the majority multiple use of government land. A copy of this poll was submitted to each of the congressional delegates of 1982; it is also being resubmitted today.

Our way of life is directly tied to natural resources. Our local, State, and national economy is dependent on the wealth generated by wise use of natural resources. Beaverhead County's primary industries of agriculture, mining, timber, and recreation rely on utilization of the resources on public lands. Multiple use and input into the management of public lands at the local level are vital to the economic health of our county.

We feel that the RARE II study was sufficient and object to any more taxpayer money going to further study. We prefer to see the money used to manage the land. RARE III will be a waste of money, time, and energy. With this thought in mind, we suggest

the congressional delegation accept the RARE II study as sufficient and release those lands designated nonwilderness in the RARE II study.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Lee. We're going to make the economic study a part of the record immediately following Mr. O'Connor's statement.

John Ulrich.

STATEMENT OF JOHN A. ULRICH, PLANT MANAGER, F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

Mr. ULRICH. Members of the Montana congressional delegation, it's a rare treat today after approximately 25 years of participating in wilderness and roadless hearings in the States of Idaho and Montana to see four Members of the entire membership of the Montana delegation present today to hear the pros and cons of the issue before us. I hope that you will continue this attitude of cooperation, put your shoulders to the harness and get the job done that needs to be done. I've been asked to introduce hearing statements by Representative Bill Hand from Beaverhead County. I also have a statement from the AFSCO Corp. in Anaconda and two statements from individuals in Anaconda.

My name is John Ulrich. I am plant manager for F. H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. sawmill operation in Dillon, Mont. Our own plant in Dillon provides 95 full-time jobs in the sawmill and 45 to 50 woods-related jobs. This represents an annual payroll of approximately $4 million. We are the second largest industrial employer in Beaverhead County.

I have been plant manager for 9 years, and prior to that time, I worked as a professional forester for the U.S. Forest Service for 20 years in Idaho and Montana. I have been involved in the wilderness issue for my entire 29 years as a professional forester. In that period of time, I have watched the National Forest wilderness acreage grow from 9,100,000 to over 25 million in 1981.

Montana already has in excess of 5 million acres of single-use lands in wilderness, primitive areas, national park, and wildlife refuge. Do you realize our State has over 16 percent of wilderness system lands classified in the lower 48 States? Every acre taken away from development as wilderness cannot be managed for all of the other commodity needs of America.

I am here today to speak in opposition to any additional wilderness in Montana. With over 16 percent already classified, Montana has more than its share of single-use land. A large percentage of the people in Beaverhead County and the State have indicated in recent surveys that they want no more wilderness.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have spent over two decades and millions of dollars studying public lands in Montana for potential addition to the wilderness system. The people in southwest Montana are fed up with studies and forest plans. They want to see some money and time spent on management of our resources on the ground.

I would like to take a few seconds to point out to you how costly this continued RARE I and II process has been on the Beaverhead National Forest. Remember, RARE I started in 1970. In 1969 an

outbreak of Mountain Pine Beetle started to develop in mature lodgepole pine trees on the Gallatin Range District.

The infestation spread repaidly to Federal and private lands in the Jack Creek drainage on the Beaverhead National Forest in 1972-73. The acres of infested land at that time was 730 acres and it spread to 302,620 acres of Federal, State, and private lands at its peak in 1981.

This problem is not unique to the Beaverhead and Gallatin. Results of aerial and ground surveys estimate that 92,895,000 lodgepole pine containing 7.4 billion board feet of merchantable volume have been killed over 2.3 million acreas from 1969 through 1982 in Region I. A large percentage of this land on the Beaverhead has been tied up in RARE II studies and harvest was not possible. Montana and this Nation cannot afford to lost this type of valuable resource.

I support an omnibus wilderness bill for the State of Montana. I believe this bill is necessary to resolve the question brought by the Ninth Circuit Court's decision of April 1982. This bill should declare that public participation and environmental analysis process was sufficient and that there was adequate consideration of the wilderness and nonwilderness value of all roadless areas in the State of Montana which RARE II placed in a nonwilderness category.

The legislation should prevent parties from going to court and using the Ninth Circuit Court decision to challenge activities on lands that RARE II allocated to nonwilderness. I feel it would also avoid the need for costly and time-consuming revisions to national forest land management plan for Montana.

This morning you were presented with a copy of the latest insect and disease report for the State of Montana. If you put the maps in that report over the roadless areas in Montana, you will see where the problem is, and you wonder why the people say there are marginal timberlands. They are marginal timberlands because Mother Nature, through insect activity, put them that way. That's the same problem in the West Big Hole. The report on page 2 will clarify that for you.

I urge you as time permits, please, read that report. Thank you.

[The letters submitted by Mr. Ulrich follows:]

MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Helena, Mont., July 7, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Public Lands Subcommittee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: For the record I am a state representative from District #82 in southwest Montana and have served the 1977, 1979 and 1983 legislative sessions.

I am a 1948 graduate of Montana Tech in mining engineering and was involved exclusively in mining until 1971 and since then I have offered my services as a consultant and have performed mineral related services as well as timber and mining equipment.

I served the city council of Dillon, a past president of the Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce, past president and present secretary of the Dillon Rotary Club as well as involvement in fraternal organizations.

My candidacy for Congress in 1980 was to a great extent related to land use policy.

I stand opposed for the wilderness in Montana. Montana, I feel, has contributed more than her share (more than 50 million single use acres of land) particularly in light of her sparse population.

Much has been said (and little done) abut the poor productivity showing and slipping quality of the United States in the past several decades. This is probably a just criticism. However, we have hassled and rehassled this land use "thing" since the early seventies awaiting a Congressional decision. The facts and figures of the issue have been stated and re-stated many times and have not changed. I urge the Congress to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

BILL HAND,
Representative, House District 82.

JULY 6, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Public Lands Subcommittee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: AFFCO, Inc. is a foundry, fabrication, forge and machine shop complex. We employ 55 people in the town of Anaconda and are solely dependant on Montana Industry for our survival. Therefore we feel very strongly about the Rare II study. We feel the Rare II study is valid and should be put into effect. The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in Beaverhead County for 12 years at great expense to the tax payers. We feel the spent money should be utilized by passing legislation adopting the Rare II study.

The Forest Products Industry and Mining Industry provide the bulk of the good paying jobs in the State, not to mention the tax base. These jobs have to be protected to ensure our children an opportunity for employment in future years.

Sincerely,

ROBERT S. MACKEY.

JULY 6, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Public Lands Subcommittee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: AFFCO, Inc. is a foundry, fabrication, forge and machine shop complex. We employ 55 people in the town of Anaconda and are solely dependant on Montana Industry for our survival. Therefore we feel very strongly about the Rare II study. We feel the Rare II study is valid and should be put into effect. The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in Beaverhead County for twelve years at great expense to the tax payers. We feel the spent money should be utilized by passing legislation adopting the Rare II study.

The Forest Products Industry and Mining Industry provide the bulk of the good paying jobs in the State, not to mention the tax base. These jobs have to be protected to ensure our children an opportunity for employment in future years.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. LIEBETRAU.

AFFCO, INC.,
Anaconda, Mont., July 6, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Public Lands Subcommittee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I am a third generation Montanan and have gone to great lengths to remain in Montana. I enjoy Montana's outdoor recreation and beauty. However, I can only enjoy Montana's beauty if there is employment opportunities in Montana. For that reason I feel that the Rare II issue has to be resolved so the mining and lumber industry can continue to exist. The Forest Service has spent a large amount of tax payer's money over the past twelve years making the Rare II study. The Rare II study provides for all aspects of Montana's needs and legislation should be posted to put it into effect.

Let's not turn all of Montana's forest lands into wilderness for a privilaged few. We have enough wilderness.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. LIEBETRAU.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Elizabeth Brenner.

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH F. BRENNER, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONT.

Ms. BRENNER. My name is Elizabeth F. Brenner. I am a geologist and rancher in Beaverhead County.

I ask at this hearing the right in the words of Aldo Leopold, "to husband our resources." This means that we preserve the unique and that for the 98 percent of the land that is not unique, we use the land wisely. Our present laws and regulations promote reclamation and, to the best of our ability, wise use of the land.

I, and my father before me, have presented testimony at innumerable hearings on the wilderness issue. This summer we celebrate the Brenners' 100th year on our ranch in Horse Prairie. We would not be a viable economic unit if the Brenners had not husbanded our resources through the years. In the same way, our country will not have a viable economy unless it learns to husband its resources. This means not locking up the land, but intelligent management of our resources.

Rather than reiterate my previous testimonies of record about the hypothetical potential resources in the areas of Beaverhead County being considered for wilderness status, I wish to state at this time that I completely support my father's statement submitted in 1958, a copy is being submitted in my written statement. As a geologist and rancher, I am adamantly opposed to any more wilderness area designations in Montana, a State that already has 16.6 percent of the conterminous U.S. wilderness areas.

Furthermore, I think that the RARE II study was more than sufficient to identify any unique lands. I strongly urge Congress to declare RARE II sufficient and to release those lands deemed not suitable for wilderness. Let us use our tax money for management, not study.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you, Elizabeth. Jack's statements of 1958 and 1980 will be made part of the record right at this point.

[The statements follow:]

Statement Before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Salt Lake City, Utah -- November 12, 1958
In Connection with S. 4028 - A Wilderness Preservation Act
By J. S. Brenner, Grant, Montana, a Montana Rancher
and
Past President of the Montana Stockgrowers Association

Mr. Chairman:

In my opinion, the bill under consideration, S. 4028, represents a purely emotional approach to a very practical problem. Most of us share delusions of being pathfinders and feel that we were born 100 years too late. We picture ourselves as leading great explorations, trapping and hunting expeditions, and Indian battles. Sir, we cannot bring back those cherished days by legistlation, and it seems pathetically useless to try.

Our problem here in the West has been the development and beneficial use of our natural resources. Under the doctrine of multiple use we have made great strides in sound development. At the same time conservation has also made great strides. By "conservation" I mean true conservation--intelligent and considered husbandry of our natural resources. Short sighted and miserly hoarding of resources as contemplated in this bill can only lead to troubles compounded in the future.

The purposes of S. 4028 are clearly stated in Section 1. To quote a few phrases--"Retaining their primeval environment and influence and being managed for purposes consistent with their continued preservation as wilderness" and again, "Leave them unimpaired for future use as wilderness." Those phrases are clear enough and most of the further provisions are just so much window dressing.

We have wilderness areas now--ably administered by the Forest Service and by the Park Service. Under the present regulations there is some consideration of local conditions and local needs. It is possible to make necessary changes without action by an overworked President of the United States and without negative action by our Congress. I don't like this feeble device of legistlation by negative action. There is some very necessary flexibility and at least a possibility of some speedy action if the need should ever arise. This is a change in the whole primitive area set up.

It throws National Parks, Forest Service, Taylor lands, and any other Federal lands into one pot for single purpose use.

This bill, S. 4028, could lock up a great potential storehouse for our nation and if it would not entirely throw the key away, it would at least bury it within the encompassing folds of bureaucracy to such an extent that it would become lost. Who among us is smart enough to know what our needs may be even ten years from now? Who can tell when we may need desperately the minerals, the timber, the water development that this bill would wind up in red tape forever? We must look to the future with an eye to possible development, not to the past with the idea of preserving lost romance.

Practical experience with the wilderness areas as they are now managed show us a lot of the faults and dangers of setting up these areas by law. The self-imposed regulations of wilderness areas make very difficult the control of insects and disease and fire in these forests. We must remember that the airplane and the bulldozer, the jeep and even the "mechanical mule" are our chief and very necessary weapons in fighting these conditions. We cannot get the pack mules or the men to handle them to attempt any control by primitive means.

We must realize that our country has been undergoing great changes over hundreds of years and that as much as we might like to, we cannot turn back to an entirely primitive state. We have upset too far the original balance of nature ever to get along without the resource management that this bill would eliminate. I have seen in one of our large wildernesses the damage done by uncontrolled elk herds. When a large area is not readily available to hunting by the average sportsman, we get concentrations of elk that destroy the feed and eventually the elk themselves through starvation. I have seen areas where there was no brouse, very thin grass, no seedling trees--no ground cover. The deer were gone--starved out; the watersheds starting to erode. In short, bad trouble is just around the corner. That situation did not prevail when domestic stock was present because domestic stock can be controlled. The damage was done when it became impossible

to enter the area except by two-day packtrip, and not enough hunters could afford the time or money to get any control on the elk. That, sir, is not conservation of any useful values in my book.

It is granted that there are certain recreational values to large wilderness areas, but it must also be admitted that the use of those values is limited to a very few people. We who live nearby and have the outfits, the experience, and the knowledge can pack in and enjoy these sacrosanct areas. The fortunate few who have both the time and the money to hire professional packers and outfitters can enjoy them. How about Mr. Average Citizen who pays the bill? The Easterner or the Midwesterner with a short vacation and an urge to see the West can only drive a respectful distance and try to imagine the scenery, the hunting and fishing, the delights of our wild country. That can by no stretch of the imagination be called "Democracy," nor can it honestly be claimed that it "preserves for all of the people."

No, Sir, this bill, S. 4028, works to defeat all of its stated purposes. I can see no virtue in taking control away from regional administration and investing it in what amounts to a three-man board of professional lobbyists in Washington. I can see no value in making it the responsibility of the President of the United States to decide if it is permissible for old "Pick-handle Pete" to prospect for tungsten on the head of Squaw Creek. I can see no progress nor any advantage to any of our citizens if we forever bar the use and development of the resources of grass and timber, minerals, and water of these vast areas, as well as 99% of the recreational use. I can see no recreational or educational use for the average man if he must contrive to walk in or stay out. I can see no conservation values if we deny our own resource management people the use of their most advanced tools and techniques for the protection and promotion of these areas.

I wish to make it clear that I have no objection to Wilderness areas as they are now administered, but we cannot give this country back to the Indians. They won't take it under these stated circumstances. We are doing pretty well by our wild country right now. Let's not rock the boat by creating another top-heavy and distant administration for it.

I

March 20, 1980

TESTIMONY ON WILDERNESS BILL No. HB5344

My name is Jack Brenner. I am a lifelong rancher and resident of Beaverhead County. I have no permits or other economic interest in these areas under consideration. My concern is for the good of the community and of the nation.

I have followed the fortunes of this wilderness concept for many years, and "Greed" seems to be the first term that is applied to opponents. In this area that term is being used on people who have widely shared use and occupancy of these lands for a hundred years. Now we are being told that to exclude everyone but the wealthy and the vigorous is the fair and open way to go. People from town who have fished and hunted, picnicked, prowled, and enjoyed this area for a lifetime are to be barred in favor of the few who can afford to hire the equipment and accompanying malarkey of professional guides. I can see no way that this can be called "preserving for all the people" and it makes me think that the word "Greed" has been applied to the wrong group.

I am concerned to see many of our neighbors in Butte willing to be used by the odd theorists who instigate this kind of action. They are the ones who stand to lose the most in recreation. As more public land is locked up, the pressures on private lands will increase. We can expect to see more "No Trespassing" signs as demand becomes intolerable. Butte's population has dropped by half in my lifetime and the rate is accelerating. It is a shame in a case like this to have such a small active tail wag our economic dog.

The land and its products are historically the sole basis of our wealth. By taking our future timber, our vital minerals and our range feed, by inhibiting hunting and fishing and recreational

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use this proposed wilderness action is designed to put us back to begging crumbs from the wealthy tables of outside capital. It has been stated that we of the mountain west are a mere colony of Eastern money, but even under that onus we could feel that we were partners in production. Now with fuel shortage and travel restriction we are seeing government get into trying to rescue some tourist business with cash. Greatly reduced recreational possibilities and no farther development at all assure that these "bail outs" won't help in this area. We stand to lose motels, camp grounds, shops, cafes, and all the service personel that go with them.

National interest as well as local interest must suffer under these proposals. We Westerners must try to make up for not only the attrition of land taken out of production by population growth and general material prosperity, but also by the demands of wars and rumors of war, by embargos, broken treaties, strikes and upheavals. The oil and gas, chromium, tungsten, cobalt, molybdenum, and tin that we need badly now, we shall need desperately before long, but no one can say that none of these vital elements are to be locked up with this land.

There have been many claims and counter claims on the value of wilderness areas, but I have yet to see any firm data on recreational use and by whom, nor have I seen any definitive scientific study of returns to wild life, plant growth, and water conservation that spring from "returning these lands to the pristine state." It would be prudent to have some idea of the results before we quarantine these hugh acreages forever.

It becomes more evident that conservation is the answer. We want conservation of our whole area and have practiced it for years. Careful and considered husbandry of all our natural resources must be carried out. It can best be handled here with locally based officials who have a free enough hand to use their knowledge of the area and its unique demands. Above all, we must remember that political actions over-riding studied management decisions can lead only to lasting damage.

Senator MELCHER. Donna Bianchi.

STATEMENT OF DONNA BIANCHI, F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

Ms. BIANCHI. On behalf of myself and the 95 employees of F. H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. in Dillon, Mont., I would like to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for RARE II.

In the 28th verse of the first book of our Bible, God told man to be fruitful and multiply and take dominion over the Earth. To me this means that man should use, but not abuse our natural resources.

In the last few years, we have been literally swamped with a new breed of environmentalist who maintain that man should not manipulate, but should allow nature's system of checks and balances to prevail. We believe that man should and must take dominion over the Earth and use his best technology in its management.

To us tying up acres and acres of land into single-use areas is abuse. What's going to happen in years to come when the wilderness is completely piled up with downfall, the trees are all diseased with bugs and we have a hot, dry summer? Some August afternoon there'll be a thunderstorm. And you know, lightning's not smart enough to know it shouldn't strike in a wilderness.

Well, I hope you know that you can wave goodby to your beautiful pristine countryside because in a matter of hours, it will be black. What happens now to the wildlife that everybody's so worried about? What happens to the fish that were once in a crystal-clear stream that has suddenly become black and poisoned with ashes? You know, you don't even have to go very far to see an example of this. The Sleeping Child Fire at Lost Trail Pass is an excellent example.

It's so much wiser to make use of this land and to replenish it by reseeding and good management practices, while at the same time providing our economy with very valuable resources, with jobs and also making a more stable environment for wildlife.

It is a proven fact that wildlife can feed better in cutover areas because there is no downfall to hinder grazing.

What you people that are supporting more wilderness in Beaverhead County don't understand is that Beaverhead County is our home. Many of us were born and raised here and this is where we want to live and raise our families. If RARE II is not resolved immediately, the impact on Beaverhead County will be catastrophic. Jobs in this area will become almost obsolete.

Approximately 60 percent of the proposed timber sales on the Beaverhead National Forest planned in the next 10 years are located in RARE II areas. If this issue is not resolved through legislative action, soon the available saw timber on the Beaverhead Forest will be drastically reduced.

It makes me very angry to be called selfish and greedy because I want to live in Beaverhead County and Montana, and have a good job where I can make a decent living instead of standing in a welfare line someplace.

Montana already has the distinction of having slightly over 5 million acres of single-use land. This is more acreage than the total

of both Connecticut and Rhode Island put together. I say that this is enough. In fact, we feel that it is more than enough single-use land for the select few that have the actual time and means to enjoy it. Wilderness has very limited recreational value to the average person, and we feel it completely excludes the elderly, the young families with small children and the handicapped.

Leaving the personal aspect behind wilderness also locks up our minerals and one of our most valuable renewable resources: Timber. In these times of uncertainy with nations abroad, how can we afford to let these resources go to waste, thus causing our country to become that much more dependent on foreign materials just because a few want a giant playground.

In closing, we beg of you to please weigh all the circumstances and then base your decision on what our Nation can actually afford to put aside for single-use purposes. We were brought up to believe that work comes before play and our country achieved its greatness on this same principle. So bearing this in mind, we must resolve the RARE II issue immediately in order to carry on our great American tradition and way of life that we have all grown to love so dearly. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. The list of employees that's attached will be made part of the record, also.

[The list of employees follows:]

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES ENDORSE THIS STATEMENT:

NAME	ADDRESS
Dean A Carpenter	3295 Rebich Lane Dillon MT 59725
Ken J. Stern	16½ S Montana Dillon MT
Linda L. Linford	NW. 310 D Bldg # Hdqs Rd Hamilton MT
[illegible]	2035 Selway Dr #7 Dillon MT
Myrna E Cooper	P.O. Box 815 Dillon, MT.
Evagene Raffeth Ross	303 N Pine Dillon Mont.
John Love	211 Chestnut Dillon Mont.
Joe Mercurio	1800 Mtn View Lane Dillon, Mt.
David R. Ensher	600 Thomas #18 Dillon, Mt.
Mike Brown	29 N Walnut Dillon, MT
Secretary-Treasurer	1715 ½ N Idaho Dillon, MT
Lon Smith	1400 Sullivan Lane Dillon, Mt.
Robert Ross	930 N Montana Dillon, Mt 59725
James Vandegrift	P.O. Box 960 Dillon, Mt. 59725
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Dennis Patton	P.O Box 371 Dillon MT 59725
Cathy Wells	P. O. Box 382 Dillon MT 59725
Andrew Judge	Box 823 Dillon Mt 59725
Linda Hayes	1321 Dillon
Myrtle Wiggins	1475 Hwy 91-S Dillon MT,
Secretary-Treasurer	935 E. Pennsylvania Dillon, MT
Mark Zaffuti	837 South Atlantic Dillon, MT.
Ken Dutch	719 South Washington #7+7½ Dillon
Jerry Patrick	2060 Selway Drive Dillon MT.
Lorraine E Evans	PO Box 937 Dillon MT.
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NAME	ADDRESS
Larry A. Drake	3525 Lakeview Lane
Frank J. Rapp	Box 204 Dillon
Carl Dillman Jr.	2090 Sunny Dr. Sp. 10
Cherie K. Aldrich	2450 Lovers Leap RD
Elvaine E. Martin	929 south Pacific
Larry Deal	Box 895 Dillon.
Rick Carpenter	2300 Lovers Leap Rd
Ralph McInnis	2000 DOWNING LA
Roger Cayton	Box 733 Dillon MT
Vince & Theresa	1745 Carnigan Lane Dillon, Mt
Tony McDonald	745 Kinsley Ave Dillon Mt
[illegible]	[illegible]
Rocky Osborne	236 ½ Idaho Dillon MT
Dave Wayman	P.O. Box 924 Dillon
Roger Marker	1100 Sawmill Road Dillon Mt.
Lori Marker	3325 Anderson Ln. Dillon Mt.
Bert Dig	229 So. Atlantic
Dale Wilke	P.O. 1001 Dillon Mt.
Edward Wolle	104 E Reinhart Dillon Mt.
Wallace Branch	201 E Glendale St. Dillon Mt.
John P. Pettit	Box 1102 Dillon Mt.
Kenneth S Lehnen	511 N. 5th Hamilton MT
Pat Rush	1500 Sunnyview Drive Dillon Mt.
Ellen Stoker	415 So Pacific Dillon MT
Bob Irvine	Box 54 Dillon Mt.
Matt Baker	617 So Reid Road Dillon, MT.
[illegible]	1157 E Glendale Dillon Mt.

NAME	ADDRESS
Ron Hendrickson	800 N. Idaho #13
[illegible]	104 E Pointdexter #7A
[illegible]	1175 North Saine Dillon Mt.
[illegible]	719 S Washington #2 Dillon MT.
[illegible]	Box 353 Dillon, Mont
[illegible]	414 ½ N. Wash. Dillon Mont.
[illegible]	120 S. Idaho Butte
[illegible]	814 East [illegible] Dillon
[illegible]	634 South Argenta Dillon
[illegible]	1600 1st Lane Dillon MT 59725
Roger E Cox	Box 502 Polson MT 59860

Senator MELCHER. Ward Jackson.

STATEMENT OF WARD JACKSON, HARRISON, MONT.

Mr. JACKSON. I'm Ward Jackson, a rancher from Harrison, Madison County. We have a grazing permit on the east side of the Tobacco Root Mountains. I'm a range ecologist, I studied 6 years at Montana State University under Dr. Rummely, Dr. Weaver, Dr. Collins, and Dr. Payne.

Basically, my area that I'm familiar with is divided into four areas: Bell Lake, Granite Peak, Albro Lake, and Hollowtop Lake.

The lakes are mostly man constructed with cement footings on wood head gates, steel culverts, et cetera, and they all need to be maintained. There is a constructed road to Granite Peak and I have rode up that road in a car. All this is above timberline, directly in the dead center of the Tobacco Root Range.

Many of my neighbors cut fence posts and corral poles in this area, a valuable help during this agricultural depression. A lot of people, a good share of these are senior citizens on fixed income, cut firewood here.

Granted, this is a primitive area, but not, in my opinion, a wilderness. The nomenclature of wilderness will only attract people that wouldn't normally be there. They'll disturb the wildlife, make more campgrounds, enlarge and deepen trails and just generally hurt the ecosystems.

A wilderness area is more apt to be hurt by weed infestations than most other causes of ecological damage. Loss of rare and endangered species is of great concern of mine. If we cannot control noxious weeds, we're running the risk of losing species not even identified or examined yet. We need access to these primitive areas for noxious weed control. It can't be done on foot, it's too far to walk in these areas. It has to be done with motorized vehicles.

Recently my family on July 4 had a family reunion. We've been here 116 years west and north. It's the exact same place where my great grandfather settled. We had pictures from the 1870's and 1880's where he mined and people that worked for him mined. We could not find most of these diggings, they had been grassed and

silted over in the last hundred years. Nature will reclaim itself if given a chance. There are, granted, some pristine and alpine areas that take a long time, but they will. Thank you for the time.

Senator MELCHER. One hundred and sixteen?

Mr. JACKSON. Yes, sir.

Senator MELCHER. Ray Hammitt.

STATEMENT OF RAY HAMMITT, SENIOR GEOLOGIST, AMOCO MINERALS CO.

Mr. HAMMITT. Mr. Chairman, members of the delegation, I am Ray Hammitt, geologist with AMOCO Minerals Co. AMOCO Minerals Co., is a holding subsidiary of Standard Oil Co., of Indiana.

In 1979, Cyprus Mines Corp., was acquired as a division of AMOCO Minerals Co. I am testifying today specifically about the East Pioneer Wilderness Study Area. Prior to AMOCO's acquisition of Cyprus, Cyprus conducted a regional exploration program in the East Pioneer Mountains of the Beaverhead National Forest. During this program, a Black Line area was recognized as being favorable to the returns of gold, copper, and molybdenum deposits.

Exploration drilling was initiated in the Cabin Gulch Prospect in 1969. In 1982, 56 drill holes have outlined a major stock work of molybdenum deposits. In 1970, exploration drilling was initiated at the Black Line prospect. In 1982, six drill holes have revealed the presence of another stock work of a molybdenum system at Black Line. In 1982, AMOCO Minerals Co., conducted an environmental restock of the Black Line area.

The purpose of this study was to identify possible environmental constraints that might affect project development. The most important constraint identified was in the proximity of the Cabin Gulch deposit to the proposed East Pioneer Wilderness and the inclusion of the Black Line prospect in the proposed wilderness.

A wilderness area adjacent to the Cabin Gulch deposit could affect the mining area methodology. In the area in the case of the Black Line prospect, a wilderness classification would severely limit resource extraction. The classification of wilderness would also preclude any further exploration of areas identified as having mineral potential. The possibility of other mineralization within the north portion of the East Pioneer Wilderness Study Area has been identified to USGS survey open-file reports.

The first report was published in 1980 and details and results of a dechemical program conducted in one-by-two degree billion quadrangle, which includes the proposed Pioneer Wilderness Area.

These published results identify numerous areas containing concentrations of copper, molybdenum mineralization. Some of these lie within the proposed wilderness area. In 1982, USGS published a preliminary geological map of the East Pioneer Mountains. This preliminary map identifies the potential area of mineralization extending westward of the Hecla Mining District to the proposed wilderness area.

In view of these facts, AMOCO recommends that the north boundary of the proposed East Pioneer Wilderness area be relocated. This recommended boundary relocation is shown on the Cabin Gulch/Black Line project area map which is part of this tes-

timony. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of that recommendation.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hammitt follows, the maps are retained in subcommittee files:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RAY HAMMITT, SENIOR GEOLOGIST, AMOCO MINERALS CO.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Ray Hammitt, Senior Geologist with Amoco Minerals Company. I have been involved with mineral exploration in Montana since 1971. Since 1980 I have been the project geologist responsible for exploration at Amoco's Cannivan Gulch and Black Lion projects. These projects are located in the East Pioneer mountains of the Beaverhead National Forest.

Amoco Minerals Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Oil Company of Indiana and is headquartered in Denver, Colorado. In 1979, Cyprus Mines Corporation was acquired as a subsidiary of Amoco Minerals Company. The Talc Division of Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company, also a division of Amoco Minerals Company, operates the Beaverhead and Yellowstone talc mines and the Three Forks talc processing facilities in Montana.

Prior to Amoco's acquisition of Cyprus Mines Corporation, Cyprus conducted a regional exploration program in the East Pioneer mountains of the Beaverhead National Forest. During this program, the Cannivan Gulch-Black Lion area was recognized as being favorable for the occurrence of porphory copper, molybdenum deposits. In 1968, Cyprus located mining claims in the Cannivan Gulch area. In 1969, the first claims were located over the adjacent Black Lion prospect. (See Figure 1 - location map).

Exploration drilling was initiated at the Cannivan Gulch prospect in 1969. From 1969 through 1982, 56 drill holes totaling over 90,000 feet in drilling have outlined a stockwork molybdenum deposit. In addition to the exploration drilling, a 2,514 foot adit has been completed with raises to confirm drilling results. In 1970 exploration drilling was initiated at the Black Lion prospect. From 1970 through 1982, six drill holes totaling over 4,600 feet of drilling have revealed the presence of another stockwork molybdenum system at Black Lion.

The combined Cannivan Gulch-Black Lion prospects are covered by 524 unpatented lode mining claims. Of these, Amoco has applied for mineral patent on 15 claims directly overlying the Cannivan Gulch molybdenum deposit.

In 1982, Amoco Minerals Company retained the services of Western Technology and Engineering Incorporated of Helena, Montana to conduct an environmental reconnaissance study of the Cannivan Gulch-Black Lion area. The purpose of the study was to identify possible environmental constraints that might effect project development. The reconnaissance study covered a 63 square mile area and three alternative access routes. Ten environmental parameters were included in the study. These parameters were visual resources, cultural resources, surface water, ground water, vegetation, wildlife, soils, air quality, socioeconomic effects, and recreational qualities. The most important environmental constraint identified by all parameters was the proximity of the Cannivan Gulch deposit to the proposed East Pioneer Wilderness and the inclusion of Black Lion in the proposed wilderness. An adjacent wilderness area to the Cannivan Gulch deposit could alter the consideration of impacts to

visual resources, surface water, ground water, vegetation and air quality, thus effecting the mining area and methodology. In the case of the Black Lion prospect, a wilderness classification would severely limit resource extraction. The classification of wilderness would also preclude any further exploration of areas identified as having mineral potential.

The possibility of other mineralized areas within the northern portion of the East Pioneer Wilderness Study area has been identified in two United States Geological Survey Open File Reports. The first report was published in 1980 and details the results of geochemical surveys of the entire Pioneer Mountain area which includes the proposed East Pioneer Wilderness area. These published results indentify numerous areas containing anomalous concentrations of copper and molybdenum mineralization. Some of these anomalies lie within the East Pioneer Proposed Wilderness Area. In 1982 the U.S.G.S. published a second report consisting of a preliminary geologic map of the entire East Pioneer Mountains. This preliminary map identifies a potential area of mineralization extending westward from the Hecla Mining District into the proposed East Pioneer Wilderness Area. (See Cannivan Gulch-Black Lion project area map).

Mineralization within the northern portion of the Proposed East Pioneer Wilderness Area has been identified by Amoco Minerals Company. In addition, the potential for further mineralization extending westward from the Hecla District has been identified by the United States Geological Survey. In view of these facts, Amoco recommends that the northern boundary of the Proposed East Pioneer Wilderness Area be relocated. This recommended boundary relocation is shown on the Cannivan Gulch-Black Lion project area map which is part of this testimony.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of Amoco's recommendation.

Senator MELCHER. Connie Nicholas.

STATEMENT OF CONNIE NICHOLAS, MAYOR, CITY OF DILLON

Ms. NICHOLAS. My name is Connie Nicholas. I have been a resident of Dillon and involved in business there for over 20 years. I have been Mayor of Dillon for 1½ years.

When Senator MELCHER's office in Helena inquired who would be represented by this statement, the answer was myself. After visiting with members of our community, there is justification to say this statement represents citizens in Dillon who are concerned with the stability and growth of our community.

With over 5 million acres of single-use land in Montana, economically speaking, more single-use land is not feasible. Our tax bases are being eroded in an area that depends primarily on agriculture, lumber, and mining. If these industries prosper, so does our community.

People utilizing single-use land leave little or no money in our community. Our businesses need people who will buy homes, automobiles, machinery, supplies, clothing, fuel, groceries, and contribute to make our area prosperous and stable.

Everyone certainly wants to see our single-use land managed and supervised with utmost care, preserving these areas for generations to come.

Our multi-use lands also can be preserved with management and supervision. The days of abusing our lands and forests are finished. All successful business people realize planning and preservation are essential to our future and the future of following generations.

Man and industry, properly motivated by hindsight and foresight, can live in harmony with nature.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

Mr. MELCHER. Bill O'Connor.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM O'CONNOR, DILLON, MONT.

Mr. O'CONNOR. My name is William O'Connor. I am an economist at Western Montana College. In December 1981—January 1982, I conducted a survey of residents of Beaverhead County on their attitudes toward land use planning on public lands; 185 telephone interviews were conducted in a stratified sample of the Dillon, Big Hole, and Lima-Grant areas. Let me summarize the major responses given by the interviewees.

Seventy-eight percent would prefer to see more decisionmaking on public lands management at the local level; better than half, 54.7 percent, feel that exploration and production of oil and gas or minerals should be allowed in potential wilderness areas; development uses, that is timber production, cattle and/or sheep grazing, were preferred over preservation ranking first and third in preference. Wildlife habitat and hunting ranked second and wilderness ranked last. It was preferred by 6.9 percent of those interviewed.

One-third to one-half of those interviewed favored a no-wilderness designation for the East Pioneers, West Pioneers, West Big Hole, and BLM areas. One-quarter to one-third favored partial wilderness designation, whereas only 10 percent favored complete wilderness designation.

Forty percent felt that current laws and regulations to protect public lands are adequate; 25 percent felt they are less than adequate; 12½ percent felt they are more than adequate.

The study in its entirely is submitted for the record with this testimony.

The Opinion Research Corp. conducted a statewide survey in Montana on attitudes toward the use of natural resources on Federal public lands in September 1978. Results of this survey indicate that almost one-half of the Montana public believes that there are shortages of some basic resources such as energy, water, various minerals, timber, and so forth. Furthermore, 7 in 10 of those who think that such shortages exist, think that the shortages are either somewhat serious or very serious.

Four in ten Montanans think that national use of our natural resources should either continue at the current rate or be increased to help the economy; almost 6 people in 10 would favor changing the use of wilderness areas so that roads could be built and the natural resources such as timber, oil, gas and other minerals could be developed, as long as developers restored the environment as nearly as possible to its original state.

Almost half believe that the development of natural resources in potential wilderness areas would help to hold down the prices for consumer products; by a close two-to-one margin, people in Mon-

tana favor rather than oppose the development of energy resources that are available in wilderness areas as a way of reducing our dependency on foreign oil imports.

Almost four in ten believe the Government is planning to set aside too much land as wilderness areas, while one-third think the amount is about right and less than one in five think the amount is too little.

Thus, both on a local and statewide level, Montanans have spoken. Thank you.

[The land-use planning in Beaverhead County study follow:]

LAND USE PLANNING IN BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

I. INTRODUCTION

Land use planning on public lands in Beaverhead County has been the subject of considerable controversy over time for a number of reasons. In the first place, public lands occupy a considerable share of total land ownership. The total land area in Beaverhead County is 4,689,499 acres. Of this, 2,372,810 acres are controlled by the federal or state government. This is greater than fifty percent of the total land ownership. Of the federal portion, 668,056 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and 1,372,114 acres are managed by the Forest Service. This long history of relationships between the federal agencies and the farmers and ranchers in Beaverhead County has promoted both harmony and discord. With the passing of time, more and more of the decision making concerning the management of public lands has come from the country as a whole and less from the county. Although there seems to be an unwritten legacy of local attitudes about resource use on public lands, very little has been done in formal studies.

II. SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE

The questions that need to be answered concerning attitudes about land management on public lands surround three or four major questions. First, are people aware of what the various federal, state, local, and private agencies are doing in the area of land management, and, if so, how do they rate the quality of land management practices? Secondly, would they prefer more decision making on public land management at the local level as opposed to the regional or national levels? Thirdly, how do they feel about wilderness designation for current wilderness study areas in Beaverhead County, and what types of uses do they feel should be allowed in those areas? Fourthly, what

are their feelings concerning roads in public lands, seasonal road closures, and, more generally, the laws and regulations currently in force to protect public lands?

A variety of studies pertaining to these questions have been done in Montana. In December, 1980, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana did a Montana Outdoor Recreation Survey[1] for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. This was a state-wide survey and focused on alternative forms of recreation. Thus, it stayed within one area of resource use. Its real value for this study was the methodology which included a random digit dialing process to gain interviews.

Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education fellows at the Dillon Resource Center of the Bureau of Land Management, conducted extensive surveys of outdoor recreation in the Beaverhead and Madison Counties[2]. Most of these were site-oriented and dealt with specific sports activities which the individuals were participating in. They were not oriented toward general land use, either. In May of 1979 the Bureau of Land Management District Office out of Butte conducted a view on social and natural resources of the Dillon resource area residents[3]. This particular study is probably the most comparable to the current study, but includes additional areas of how respondents felt about community services and facilities, the social environment, life styles, growth and economic development.

A fourth study is a public land survey done by Michael A. Bond[4] on the Gallatin and Beaverhead National Forests for Trout, Unlimited. This is a brief attitude study on the use of these two National Forests for recreational purposes, as opposed to development purposes.

Any number of other studies have been done in Southwestern Montana, but these characterize the literature which currently exists.

III. THE STUDY

Design of the Questionnaire

The current study came out of a desire to gain a solid statistical base on attitudes of the people of Beaverhead County concerning land use in the public lands. In order to obtain maximum participation, we decided to go the route of the telephone interview. To hold people in a telephone interview, we limited our questioning to the four basic categories of questions indicated above and added a series of demographic questions. Our rationale in adding these demographic questions is obvious: first, are the respondents new residents to Montana and Beaverhead County, or are they old-time residents, and to what extent is there a correlation between their responses and their length of residence here? Secondly, is the sample approximately balanced between males and females, or does it tend one way or the other? Our sampling unit was the residential telephone rather than a specific person in the home, therefore we did not control for sex. Thirdly, with regard to age, we required that our interviewees to be greater than eighteen years old. Also, we wanted a breakdown of responses by age level. We also wanted a breakdown of responses by number of years of school completed, by marital status, by occupation, by employment in the public sector, private sector, or by oneself, and by income level. The question on rental or ownership of one's own dwelling was meant as a proxy of one's commitment to the community as a taxpayer.

Methodology

Since the survey was designed for telephone administration, we wanted to be certain that the sample drawn was truly random, particularly because some parts of the County are very sparsely populated. Leaving out their responses might bias a significant economic sector. We could find no list which included both listed and unlisted numbers except one developed by the Bureau of Business

and Economic Research in the random digit dialing technique for sample selection[5] in their outdoor recreation survey. They generated, by computer techniques, a random sample of numbers from each of the telephone exchanges in the County.

During the data collection period, about 500 randomly selected telephone numbers were attempted. About 245 of these were ineligible numbers; they included primarily nonworking or unassigned numbers, as well as nonresidential numbers and "no contacts" (no contact was made after at least three varied attempts). Of the approximately 255 residential households reached, about 73 percent responded, resulting in 185 usable interviews. This response rate compared quite favorably with surveys of this type.

Stratified Sample

In order to assure that each part of the County would be represented proportionate to their residence, a stratified sample was set up. The value of stratifying comes from the ability to separate a universe into sub-groups to make statistical arguments about each of those sub-groups, and to be able to add them all together and equally validly to make statistical arguments about the total. The sub-groups defined in this area were the Dillon area, the Big Hole area (including Jackson, Wisdom and Wise River), and the Lima and Grant area. We felt that there might be some significant differences in attitudes about resource use on public lands among the three groups. Dillon might be expected to be the resource user from the point of view of recreation, timber, and possibly minerals. The Big Hole is an on-scene user of public lands for grazing, etc., as is Grant and Lima, but the latter might be expected to be a series of much larger, older operations.

Approximately eighty percent of the sample is in the Dillon area and ten percent in each of the other two areas.

A sample size of 200 was selected, 185 interviews were completed, with confidence limits of ninety-five percent. This gives a sampling error of ±7 percentage points. Increased sampling size would reduce the sampling error, but the reduction would probably be small in relation to increased costs and time without any great benefits in meeting the objectives of the survey.

IV. REPORT OF THE RESULTS

The following table summarizes the responses given by each of the three groups sampled and also combined the total responses for the overall sample. Certain people who were called did not want to participate in the survey. Their request was honored, and additional participants were chosen according to the random digit dialing procedure. Others who did participate were unwilling to respond to one or another items (e.g., age or income), and their wishes were also honored. However, the number of items in this latter group was insignificant with respect to the size of the sample, and their interviews were included in the sample.

Table I

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
PUBLIC LANDS SURVEY

I. ATTITUDE DATA

(NOTE: All results reported in percentages except for question 5 in Part II.)

1. How many years have you lived in Montana?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. 0-4 years	14.8	16.1	11.1	9.5
b. 5-9 years	7.7	7.7	5.6	9.5
c. 10 years or over	77.6	76.2	83.3	81.0

2. How many years have you lived in Beaverhead County?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. 0-4 years	30.6	32.2	22.2	23.8
b. 5-9 years	10.4	9.8	11.1	14.3
c. 10 years or over	59.0	58.0	66.7	61.9

3. Do you know what the Forest Service does?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	88.5	88.1	77.8	100.0
b. No	11.5	11.9	22.2	0.0

4. For those who responded "Yes" to Question 3:
How would you rate the quality of land management by the Forest Service?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Excellent	7.5	7.7	11.1	4.8
b. Good	43.4	42.3	33.3	57.1
c. Fair	24.2	22.5	33.3	28.6
d. Poor	4.4	5.6	0.0	0.0
e. Don't know	20.3	21.8	22.2	9.5

5. Do you know what the Bureau of Land Management does?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	71.4	70.4	83.3	66.7
b. No	28.6	29.6	16.7	33.3

6. For those who responded "Yes" to Question 5:
How would you rate the quality of land management by the BLM?

a. Excellent	4.9	2.8	11.1	0.0
b. Good	29.1	30.3	33.3	20.0
c. Fair	25.3	23.2	27.8	36.0
d. Poor	6.0	5.6	11.1	5.0
e. Don't know	34.1	35.9	16.7	40.0

7. Are you aware of the land management functions of the State?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	49.2	44.8	66.7	66.7
b. No	50.8	55.2	33.3	33.3

8. For those who responded "Yes" to Question 7:
How would you rate the quality of land management by the State?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Excellent	2.2	2.1	0.0	5.3
b. Good	23.5	20.6	22.2	47.4
c. Fair	16.8	16.3	33.3	5.3
d. Poor	1.1	1.0	0.0	5.3
e. Don't know	56.4	60.3	44.4	36.8

9. Are you aware of land management practices of private individuals?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	67.6	62.9	88.9	85.0
b. No	32.4	37.1	11.1	15.0

10. For those who responded "Yes" to Question 9:
How would you rate land management practices of private individuals?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Excellent	8.2	5.9	11.1	22.2
b. Good	38.8	37.0	33.3	55.6
c. Fair	14.1	13.3	22.2	11.1
d. Poor	2.9	3.0	5.6	0.0
e. Don't know	35.9	40.7	16.7	11.1

11. Would you prefer more decision-making on public lands management at the local level?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	77.9	76.1	88.9	80.0
b. No	18.2	19.0	11.1	20.0
c. Don't know	3.9	4.9	0.0	0.0

12. Should the exploration and production of oil and gas or minerals be allowed in potential wilderness areas?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	54.7	52.6	55.6	70.0
b. No	45.3	47.4	44.4	30.0

13. Public lands should be managed to emphasize which of the following uses?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Timber production and use	20.0	19.5	21.2	23.8
b. Wildlife habitat & hunting	21.8	22.9	17.3	17.5
c. Cattle and/or sheep grazing	21.0	19.5	30.8	22.2
d. Minerals, oil and gas	11.6	10.8	11.5	17.5
e. Recreation	16.0	16.0	15.4	15.9
f. Wilderness	6.9	8.6	0.0	1.6
g. Other	2.7	2.7	3.8	1.6

14. Do you approve of wilderness designation for:

A. East Pioneers

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
1. Completely	10.4	11.2	11.1	4.8
2. Partially	27.3	30.8	11.1	19.0
3. None	29.0	23.1	38.9	57.1
4. Don't know	33.3	34.9	38.9	19.0

B. West Pioneers

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
1. Completely	8.2	9.8	5.6	0.0
2. Partially	31.7	35.0	27.8	14.3
3. None	29.0	20.3	44.4	71.4
4. Don't know	31.1	34.9	22.2	14.3

C. West Big Hole

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
1. Completely	11.0	12.7	11.1	0.0
2. Partially	26.4	28.2	22.2	14.3
3. None	43.4	39.4	38.9	76.2
4. Don't know	19.2	19.7	27.8	9.5

D. BLM Areas

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
1. Completely	7.7	8.4	5.6	4.8
2. Partially	27.5	30.1	16.7	19.0
3. None	42.3	39.2	50.0	52.4
4. Don't know	22.5	22.4	27.8	19.0

15. Which of the following best describes your feelings about roads to and in public lands?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. The current roads are okay	64.3	62.1	94.4	52.4
b. There should be fewer roads	25.4	27.6	5.6	28.6
c. There should be more roads	5.4	6.2	0.0	4.8
d. Other	4.9	4.1	0.0	14.3

16. Which of the following best describes your feelings about seasonal road closures?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. The current seasonal closures are okay	57.8	60.0	44.4	52.4
b. There should be fewer seasonal closures	18.3	17.9	16.7	14.3
c. There should be more seasonal closures	14.4	12.9	27.8	19.0
d. Other	9.4	9.3	11.1	14.3

17. How do your view current laws and regulations to protect public lands?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Adequate	38.6	36.8	38.9	52.4
b. Less than adequate	23.9	24.3	27.8	14.3
c. More than adequate	12.5	11.1	16.7	19.0
d. Don't know	25.0	27.8	16.7	14.3

18. Do you obtain firewood from public lands?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Yes	58.3	54.9	58.8	85.0
b. No	41.7	45.1	41.2	15.0

II. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Sex

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Male	48.1	47.6	50.0	47.6
b. Female	51.9	52.4	50.0	52.4

2. Age

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. 18-30	31.7	34.3	16.7	23.8
b. 31-45	26.8	25.2	33.3	33.3
c. 46-65	26.8	23.8	38.9	38.1
d. Over 65	14.8	16.8	11.1	4.8

3. Years of school completed

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. 0-8	7.7	8.4	5.6	4.8
b. 9-12	37.2	35.7	61.1	28.6
c. 13-16	46.4	46.2	33.3	57.1
d. Over 16	8.7	9.8	0.0	9.5

4. Marital Status

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Single	26.4	29.6	22.2	9.5
b. Married	73.6	70.4	77.8	89.5

5. Number in household

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Average number of males	1.54	1.52	1.67	1.57
b. Average number of females	1.47	1.42	1.94	1.47

6. Occupation of Respondent

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Agricultural	12.8	6.4	33.3	38.1
b. Construction	5.6	7.1	.0	.0
c. Education	7.2	9.3	.0	.0
d. Health	1.7	1.4	.0	4.8
e. Mechanics/Repairers	1.7	2.1	.0	.0
f. Office	7.8	9.3	5.6	.0
g. Retired	14.4	15.7	22.2	.0
h. Sales	1.7	2.1	.0	.0
i. Scientific/Technical	3.9	4.3	.0	4.8
j. Service	31.7	29.3	38.9	38.1
k. Social Service	1.7	2.1	.0	.0
l. Student	9.1	9.3	.0	14.3
m. Transportation	1.1	1.4	.0	.0

7. Employer of Respondent

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Public Sector	20.6	24.5	0.0	10.0
b. Private Sector	30.1	31.4	23.1	30.0
c. Self-employed	49.3	44.1	76.9	60.0

8. Occupation of Spouse (if married)

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Agricultural	13.5	8.1	42.9	21.1
b. Construction	2.3	3.0	.0	.0
c. Education	8.3	9.1	.0	10.5
d. Health	6.0	6.1	.0	10.5
e. Mechanics/Repairers	1.5	2.0	.0	.0
f. Office	3.8	5.1	.0	.0
g. Retired	3.8	4.0	.0	5.3
h. Sales	4.5	3.0	7.1	10.5
i. Scientific/Technical	5.3	5.1	.0	10.5
j. Service	27.8	26.3	42.9	26.3
k. Social Service	10.5	13.1	7.1	.0
l. Student	10.5	12.1	.0	5.3
m. Transportation	2.3	3.0	.0	.0

9. Employment of Spouse

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Public Sector	15.7	15.7	7.1	23.5
b. Private Sector	35.5	37.1	42.9	17.6
c. Self-employed	43.8	40.1	50.0	58.8
d. Doesn't apply	5.0	6.7	.0	.0

10. Do you rent or own your own dwelling?

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. Rent	23.0	25.4	5.3	19.0
b. Own	69.4	70.4	68.4	66.7
c. Other	7.7	4.2	26.3	14.3

11. Weekly take-home pay for the family

	Total	Dillon	Lima-Grant	Big Hole
a. $1-350	58.3	57.0	69.2	60.0
b. $351-700	32.2	30.2	30.8	40.0
c. $701-1,050	6.1	8.1	.0	.0
d. More than $1,050	3.5	4.7	.0	.0

V. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

The sample was evenly divided by sex. The distribution by age was constant in the 31 to 65 year categories, but there tended to be fewer in the over-65 age category and more in the 18 to 30 year category. Approximately one-third of those interviewed had completed high school, and one-half had completed college. Three-quarters of the interviewees were married, and a similar number had lived in Montana for at least ten years. These demographic data tended to be relatively constant among the three groups, with the exception that Dillon interviewees tended to have lived a shorter length of time both in Beaverhead County and in Montana than the other groups.

Among the land management agencies, the Forest Service had the highest visibility. Almost ninety percent of the people interviewed indicated that they were aware of the functions of the Forest Service. Of this group, more than fifty percent rated their land management quality as "excellent" or "good", another twenty percent indicated that they did not know and only four

percent rated it as "poor". Those rating it poor were concerned about allowing bugs to eat the timber, allowing fires to run and leaving dead wood lying in the forest.

Less than three-quarters of the respondents indicated a knowledge of the functions of the Bureau of Land Management. Of those, one-third rated their land management practices "excellent" or "good", another third did not know, and the rest graded them "fair" or "poor".

Only half of the respondents indicated an awareness of the land management functions of the State. One-quarter of these rated the quality of land management "excellent" to "good", 56.4 percent indicated they didn't know, and the other 18 percent indicated "fair" or "poor".

Two-thirds of the respondents were aware of the land management practices of private individuals. Forty-seven percent of these indicated "excellent" or "good" land management practices, 36 percent indicated they did not know. From this latter group there was a continued response that land management practices among individuals were so highly variable that one could not fairly respond. In each of the questions regarding awareness of respondents about land management practices of federal, state and private agencies, people outside the Dillon area showed a higher level of awareness. These people tend to be much more highly oriented toward agricultural occupations and thus could be expected to have a direct interest in these practices. Respondents answered "yes" by a four to one margin in response to the question, "Would you prefer more decision-making on public lands management at the local level". The response was even more pronounced in the Lima-Grant area, i.e., a nine to one margin. People felt that exploration and production of oil and gas or minerals should be allowed in potential wilderness areas, but not by a large majority. Only in the Big Hole area was the seven to three margin seen. The question was too

broad and thus brought with it quite a few comments. Typical comments are, yes, if they could do it without destroying things; yes, if it came to a crises stage; maybe, if it is not a threat to wildlife; it depends on how close the areas are to being designated wilderness; only if they are careful; only if necessary; it depends upon the area; yes, with limitations.

On the question asking which uses should public lands be managed to emphasize, development tended to dominate over preservation, with the exception of wildlife habitat and hunting. The Dillon portion of the sample placed a high value on this resource use and thus ranked it number one in the total, even though the other areas gave it a number three or four ranking, cattle and/or sheep grazing, timber production and use, were the other two top-ranked uses. This was followed by recreation and wilderness ranked significantly below recreation in percentage count. Most of those indicating that public land should be managed to emphasize other uses added the comment that they did not want to rank these individually, but were more interested in seeing multiple use land management. Only approximately ten percent of those interviewed favored complete wilderness designation for the East Pioneers, West Pioneers, West Big Hole, and the BLM areas. Of these, Dillon tended to favor the designation most, whereas the other two areas were much less comfortable with complete wilderness designation. One-quarter to one-third of the respondents favored partial wilderness designation, whereas one-third to one-half favored no wilderness designation. There was still a surprising minority of people who opted for the "don't know" choice.

Approximately two-thirds of the respondents indicated that the current roads to and in public lands are okay. Many of the people who responded in this manner were saying that there are a sufficient number of roads, but that they would like to see them better maintained. Also there were some comments

to the effect that there should be enforcement requiring people to stay on existing roadways and fining those who do not. People also seemed to feel that the current seasonal closures are okay by about about a fifty-eight percent margin. Some would like to see more seasonal closures where there is wildlife to graze, and in game ranges, also during hunting season. Others say there should be fewer seasonal closures, and these should be only for fire hazards. Almost forty percent of the respondents felt that current laws and regulations to protect public lands are adequate, less than twenty-five percent of them felt that they were less than adequate; approximately twelve and a half percent felt they were more than adequate; and another twenty-five percent didn't know. The differences between respondent groups are not particularly significant.

VI. CONCLUSION

Beaverhead County is in the process of change. From 1970 to 1980 the median age changed from 26.9 years to 29.4 years, and the average level of education has risen as well. Much of this has been due to the outmigration of 400 over the period of the decade.

Given these changes one can expect changes in their attitudes to public lands management issues. Hopefully the future will bring increased cooperation between land managers and all residents of Beaverhead County.

REFERENCES CITED

[1]Susan Wallwork, Mary Lenihan, and Paul Polzin, Montana Outdoor Recreation Survey. Bureau of Business and Economic Research, School of Business Administration, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. December, 1980.

[2]Two publications which emanated from these surveys are Recreation in the Dillon Resource Area, by Andrew Epple, and Recreation Use and Resource Analysis of BLM Lands Within the Madison River Corridor, by Donald Baty. These are available from the Dillon Resource Area Office of the Butte District Management Office.

[3]U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Social and Natural Resource Views of Dillon Resource Area Residents. May, 1979.

[4]Michael A. Bond, Public Lands Survey, Gallatin County, Montana, Gallatin and Beaverhead National Forests. May 10, 1981.

[5]Wallwork, op. cit., pp. 147-150.

APPENDICIES

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
Public Lands Questionnaire
November 11, 1981

To the Interviewer: You should begin each call with a request to poll the respondent on a survey of attitudes concerning the use of resources on public lands in Beaverhead County. These resources include forests, wildlife, cattle and sheep grazing, minerals, oil and gas, recreation, and wilderness. Stress that their responses will be kept completely confidential. In order to avoid potential biasing of some responses, indicate that you are not able to indicate the poll originator, but if they wish, a copy of the completed study will be sent to them. You should also be careful not to bias responses in any other way (e.g., by the tone of your voice, etc.).

1. How many years have you lived in Montana? ____(1)

2. How many years have you lived in Beaverhead County? ____(2)

PART I. ATTITUDE DATA

Lands in Beaverhead County are managed by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, other federal agencies, the State of Montana, and private interests.

3. Do you know what the Forest Service does? Yes____(3) No____(4)

4. How would you rate the quality of land management by the Forest Service?
Excellent____(5) Good____(6) Fair____(7) Poor____(8) Don't know____(9)

5. Do you know what the Bureau of Land Management does? Yes____(10) No____(11)

6. How would you rate the quality of land management by the Bureau of Land Management?
Excellent____(12) Good____(13) Fair____(14) Poor____(15) Don't know____(16)

7. Are you aware of the land management functions of the State? Yes____(17) No____(18)

8. How would you rate the quality of land management of the State?
Excellent____(19) Good____(20) Fair____(21) Poor____(22) Don't know____(23)

9. Are you aware of land management practices of private individuals?
Yes____(24) No____(25) .

10. How would you rate the land management practices of private individuals?
Excellent____(26) Good____(27) Fair____(28) Poor____(29) Don't know____(30)

11. Would you prefer more decision-making on public lands management at the local level? Yes____(31) No____(32) Don't know____(33)

12. Should exploration and production of oil and gas or minerals be allowed in potential wilderness areas? Yes____(34) No____(35)

13. Public lands should be managed to emphasize which of the following uses: (Please make three choices from this list. If you would like me to reread them or if you wish to write them down, let me know.)
    a. Timber production and use ____(36)
    b. Wildlife habitat and hunting ____(37)
    c. Cattle and/or sheep grazing ____(38)
    d. Minerals, oil and gas ____(39)
    e. Recreation ____(40)
    f. Wilderness ____(41)
    g. Other (please specify ____(42)

14. Do you approve of Wilderness designation for
    a. East Pioneers Completely___(43) Partially___(44) None___(45) Don't know___(46)
    b. West Pioneers Completely___(47) Partially___(48) None___(49) Don't know___(50)
    c. West Big Hole Completely___(51) Partially___(52) None___(53) Don't know___(54)
    d. BLM Areas Completely___(55) Partially___(56) None___(57) Don't know___(58)

15. Which of the following best describes your feelings about roads to and in public lands?
    a. The current roads are okay ____(59)
    b. There should be fewer roads ____(60)
    c. There should be more roads ____(61)
    d. Other (Please specify) ____(62)

16. Which best describes your feelings about seasonal road closures?
    a. The current seasonal closures are okay ____(63)
    b. There should be more seasonal closures ____(64)
    c. There should be fewer seasonal closures ____(65)
    d. Other (Please specify) ____(66)

17. How do you view current laws and regulations to protect public lands?
    a. Adequate ____(67)
    b. Less than adequate ____(68)
    c. More than adequate ____(69)
    d. Don't know ____(70)

18. Do you obtain firewood from public lands? Yes___(71) No___(72)

PART II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Sex of respondent? Male___(73) Female___(74)

2. What is your age? ____(75)

3. How many years of school have you completed? ____(76)

4. What is your marital status? Single___(77) Married___(78)

5. Total number in your household, including yourself: Males___(79) Females___(80)

6. What is your occupation? (write in) _____(81)

7. Are you employed by: public sector___(82) private sector___(83) self___(84)

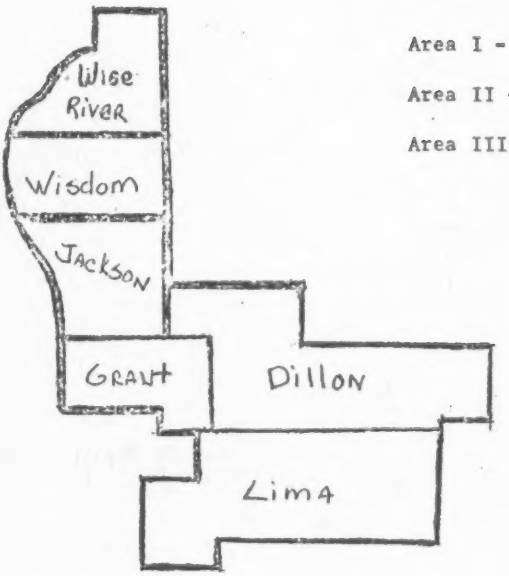
8. If married, what is spouse's occupation? (write in)_____(85)

9. Is spouse employed by: public sector___(86) private sector___(87) self___(88)
   doesn't apply___(89)

10. Do you rent or own your own dwelling? Rent___(90) Own___(91) Other___(92)

11. What is your weekly take-home pay for the family this year? _____(93)

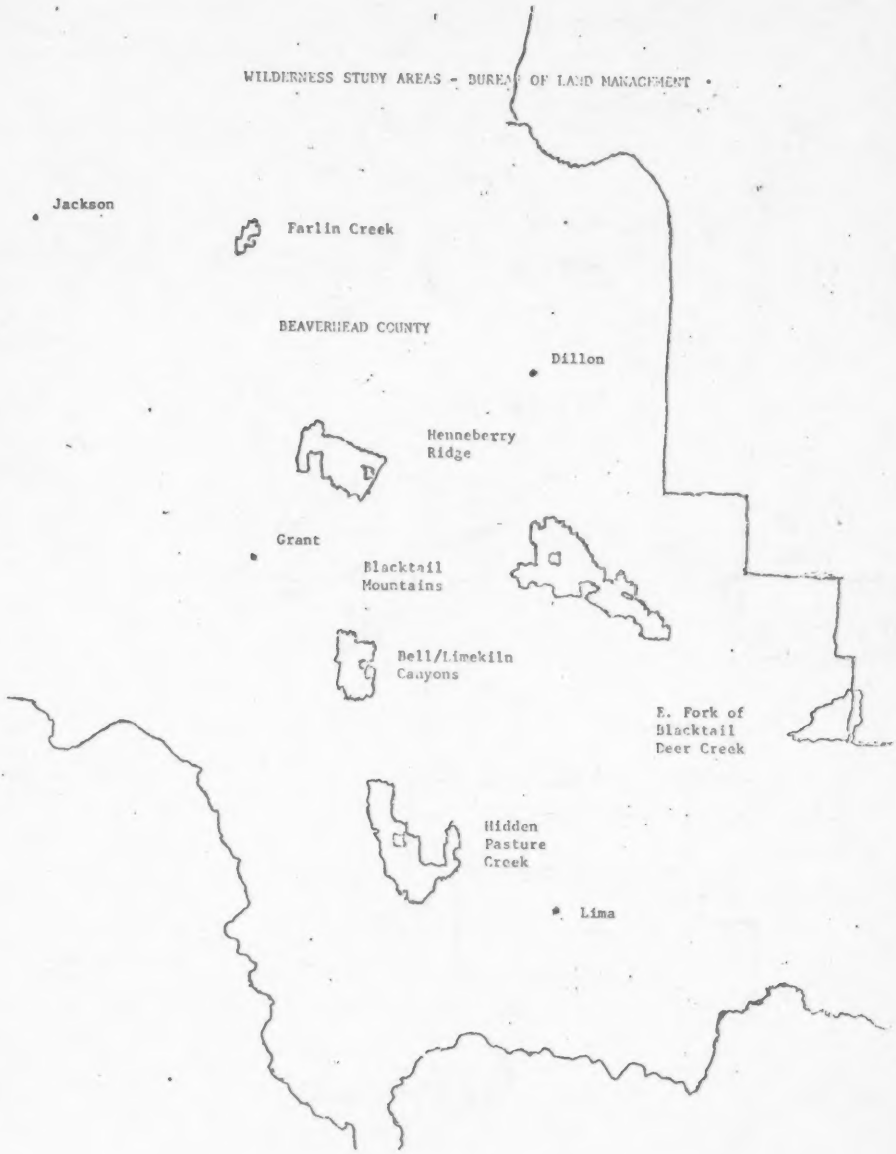
SURVEY AREA



Area I - Dillon

Area II - Lima-Grant

Area III - Jackson-Wisdom-Wise River


WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Jackson
Farlin Creek
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
Dillon
Henneberry Ridge
Grant
Blacktail Mountains
Bell/Limekiln Canyons
E. Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek
Hidden Pasture Creek
Lima

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS - FOREST SERVICE

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. I think your study has been referred to before but it will be part of the hearing record. Maybe this is the most appropriate place.

I believe that concludes this panel.

Our next panel will be Jack Cole, Dean O'Leary, John Guidoni, Bob McNeil, Mike Mosolf, Nick Novich, Tim Tollett, and Larry Haney.

Jack Cole is first.

STATEMENT OF JACK COLE, MELROSE, MONT.

Mr. COLE. Thank you, Senator. I'm Jack Cole. I own the Canyon Creek Ranch in Melrose, Mont. I'm also president of the National Forest Recreation Association representing 6,000 of your commercial permittees on national forests across the United States.

I'm here today to talk about the East Pioneer Range, which is one of the least controversial RARE II areas. It's known by many as the Switzerland of Montana. It received one of the highest wilderness classifications under RARE II of any area in the West. Its 88,000 acres represent abut 2½ percent of Beaverhead County and 0.1 percent of all of Montana.

Lumber industry leadership tells me if they have to have some wilderness areas in this part of the country this is the one they would like to have, primarily because there is very little commercially cutable timber there.

There's only 500 animal unit months in the East Pioneers, so the rancher opposition has been minimal. In its present roadless state it is one of the most valuable economic assets of western Montana.

It's a breeding ground and sanctuary for the elk, deer, and mountain goat that migrate for hunting and for food in other areas. It's a source of good food for local residents for hunting and fishing. It provides rest and recreation for many local residents. And it's a great attraction to visitors and supports a thriving tourist business. It provides numerous jobs and income for resorts, outfitters, guides, and local businesses in the area.

Leave it in its present status. It will continue to provide these benefits for centuries. Open the East Pioneers up with roads like our subsidized friend, Mr. Hammitt, open that up with roads and within a few very short months, because it's such a small, delicate area, you will see the last of the decent fishing, the game, the jobs, the food resources, and the long-time future jobs and opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

I'm very pleased with Senator John's recent June 1983 report on the economy. I'm impressed with the statement where he says, "The only logical answer for reducing Federal deficits is either by cutting spending or increasing taxes."

I have a couple of suggestions of how to cut spending, some of them not too popular. In the first place, the Forest Service today is in a runaway deficit situation—a runaway deficit situation. It's gone from a period where it was in a profitable standpoint to where today it's in a deficit situation of about 1,000 percent greater than it was 8 years ago. Reduce the below-cost timber sales and you are going to pick up a lot of revenue. Reduce the cost of build-

ing and maintaining roads and you are going to reduce the expenditures.

One way to increase taxes is the oil companies and mining companies enjoy special tax privileges the rest of us don't have. So-called development cost recovery deductions and depletion allowances lets them keep tremendous sums of money. I personally know several virtual billionaires that exist because of that privilege.

A lot of that cash has shown up out here in recent years getting into this last remaining great resource in Beaverhead County.

Gentlemen, we appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about wilderness protection for the East Pioneers. Thank you for spending this long day with us. I admire your stamina. Thank you.

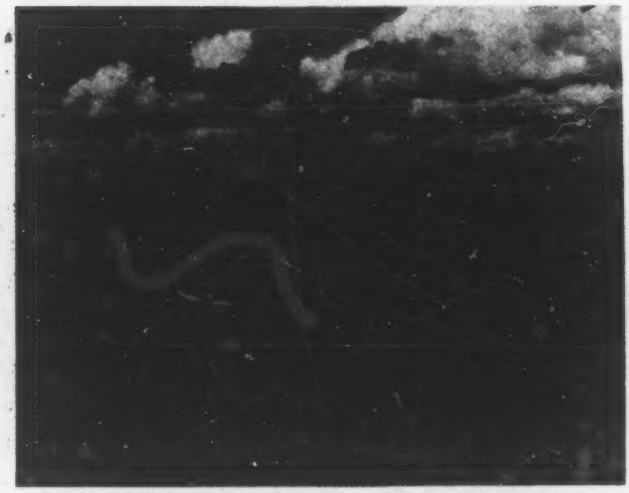
[Mr. Cole submitted the following:]

27-608 O - 84 - 36

Statement in Support of Approving the East Pioneer Mountains as a Permanent Wilderness Area by Jack R. Cole, Canyon Creek Ranch, Melrose Mont.

THE EAST PIONEER WILDERNESS

-- an ongoing, permanent economic resource
for residents of Dillon and Beaverhead County



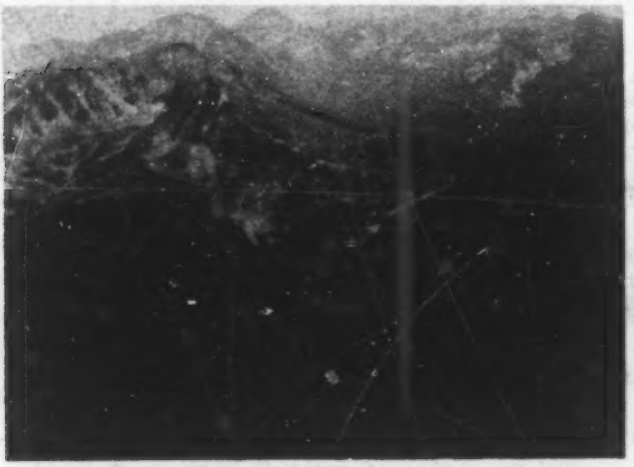
Upper Bond Lake

"A Wilderness Area can be one of the most important economic assets a community can have".

Clifton R. Merritt

MISSOULA
BUTTE
BOZEMAN
EAST PIONEER WILDERNESS
(SHADED AREA)
RAND MCNALLY
MONTANA
KALISPELL
MISSOULA
BILLINGS
WATERTON-GLACIER

How the preservation of a portion of the East Pioneer Mountain Range as a statutory "Wilderness" area will provide <u>permanent economic and social benefits</u> to the residents of Dillon and Beaverhead County.



Schultz Lakes

A. <u>The proposed East Pioneer Wilderness -- A Description</u>.
<u>What is it?</u> <u>Where is it?</u>

1) It is an important attraction for visitors to South West Montana and to families and others who have chosen to locate near the Wilderness area.

It is surrounded by several resorts, guest ranches, private ranches, residences, and summer homes occupied by persons who have been attracted to and have located and remained here because of the roadless, "Wilderness" characteristics of this unique high mountain area. It is also utilized by several outfitters and professional guides that serve visitors to the area.

These enterprises and local residents provide a significant number of jobs and add substantially to the economy of Dillon, Wise River, Melrose, and other communities in Southwest Montana.

2) The area that has been designated for "Wilderness" is characterized by:

... High rugged mountains (some of the highest in Montana)
... Steep rocky slopes
... Barren mountain sides
... Narrow canyons
... Heavy snow fall
... Soft, boggy valley floors
... Numerous small Alpine Lakes
... Several small streams
... Absence of roads and habitable structures
... Many fragile Alpine Meadows
... Unstable erodible soils
... Very little grass for grazing
... A short growing season - long winters and short summers
... Sparse timber stands
... Perhaps more variety of wildflowers than any other area in the U.S.

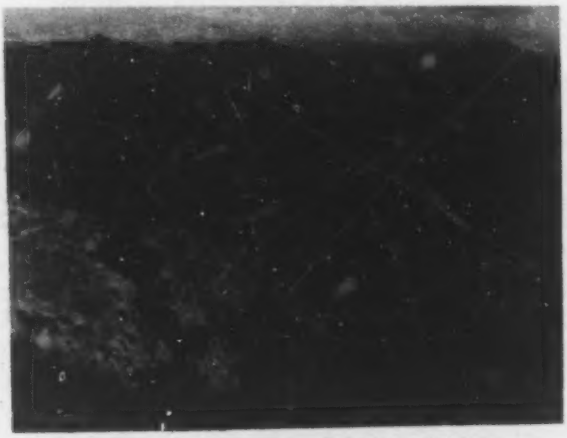
3) The East Pioneer Wilderness serves as a "reservoir" or "holding area" for "run off", It provides the Big Hole River with a continuous flow of water for downstream agriculture, recreation, and other purposes of Dillon and Beaverhead County residents throughout the summer and early fall.

4) In its current protected condition it serves as a sanctuary and breeding ground for:

... Elk
... Deer
... Mountain Goat
... Falcon
... Blue Grouse
... Franklin Grouse
... Golden Eagle
... Cutthroat Trout
... Pika
... Rainbow Trout

... Brook Trout
... Black Bear
... Cougar
... Moose
... Martin
... Beaver
... Grayling

5) In comparison with other Wilderness areas, it is of modest size, with less than 90,000 acres. It represents less than 1/10th of 1% of the land in the State of Montana, and less than 2¼% of Beaverhead County.



Crescent Lake

B. Background

A portion of the East Pioneer Range of the Beaverhead National Forest has been recommended by the U.S. Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the U.S., for preservation as a statutory Wilderness Area.

1) The East Pioneer Wilderness Area has long been considered by the U.S. Forest Service and many others to be a vital area that must be preserved. The East Pioneers became one of the most highly recommended areas under the entire "Rare II" study program (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation). Incidentally, the "Rare II" program involved more public

participation than any government proposal in the history of the U.S.A and all appropriate government agencies also had an opportunity to study and comment on it.

2) The majority of residents in Dillon and Beaverhead County have always been opposed to most government interference and regulations and have been generally opposed to "locking up" any area by designating it as "Wilderness".

3) We are reminded, on occasion however, that a very high percentage of the land in our county belongs to the U.S. Government and thus to all citizens of the United States -- but we still don't like government interference in our area.

4) Montana actually has only a small percent, (8.3%) of the publicly owned National Forest Land in "Wilderness", whereas neighboring Wyoming has 27%.

5) Most of us have never seen much of the area that has been recommended for Wilderness protection, nor do we understand why so many apparently knowledgeable persons are in favor of "Wilderness" designation for this area of the East Pioneers.

6) Because no one has explained to us what the long term economic benefits of Wilderness are, and because we have read in the local newspaper that there might be considerable marketable timber in the area that would hurt our economy if it couldn't be harvested, we find ourselves generally undecided as to what is really best for Dillon and Beaverhead County.

C. History

1) For many years Beaverhead County residents, fishermen, hunters, back packers, hikers, campers, horseback riders, geologists, forestry groups, and the U.S. Forest Service have recognized that part of the East Pioneer Mountain Range is a rare and fragile area that must be protected from damage by roads and exploitation.

2) To protect this rare natural resource, the area has been managed by the U.S. Forest Service for many years almost as if it were an official statutory Wilderness Area.

3) Many studies were made and considerable discussion ensued over many years between the U.S. Forest Service, local residents, and others. In these studies it was recognized that there is only a limited quantity of commercially harvestable timber in the area. Although the U.S. Government receives considerable income from the sale of timber to private companies, it was decided that the costs of road construction, road maintenance, administrative costs and related expenses did not justify the limited potential income. As a timber resource, it would supply some income and a few jobs only for a short period of time -- but the roads required to harvest the timber would destroy forever the East Pioneers area as a valuable permanent economic asset for Dillon and Beaverhead County.

4) Many adjustments were made in the boundaries of the originally proposed Wilderness area and the area was reduced in size to adapt to the suggestions of mining, timber, off-road vehicle, and other interests.

5) Historically, mining activities "come and go" depending on the current market price of the minerals being extracted. Too often mines are abandoned and leave their indelible "eye sore" scars on the landscape, polluted creeks and rivers, and a legacy of unemployed and unemployable human burdens on the welfare rolls of the local community and the taxpayers.

Lion and Grayling Lakes

D. How the Construction of Roads will Quickly Destroy the East Pioneer Wilderness as an Economic Resource -- forever.

1) Roads that destroy fish and game and the natural beauty and quiet of an area also destroy it attractiveness to the local residents that have chosen to live in the area and to the tourists who come here to visit. Without such a tourist attraction, the Resort, Motel and Guiding Industries that serve them would soon be unable to survive. Jobs would be gone. At the same time, this would hurt the local merchants that supply the users of the East Pioneers with food, building materials, clothing, meals, etc. and it would hurt the other businesses and professions that also benefit from this important economic activity.
(One has to look no further than the area of the North Fork of the Flathead River, which used to be a prime area for Grizzly, Elk, Grayling and Cutthroat. The streams are now silted, the area is desecrated, and the game is virtually non-existent. The tourists and other outdoor oriented residents are gone. Also look to the Jules Bowl above Brooks Lake in Wyoming -- an undescribable mess - good to no one.

2) Vehicle and trail bike travel on these Alpine soils causes permanent damage.

... It creates ruts. (Vehicles create straight line ruts in the highly erodible high mountain soils; rainfall and "run off" quickly deepens these ruts; and it soon creates ditches and "washes" that permanently damage the area. Trail bike riders are especially prone to stray off designated trails, cause new rutting, and create permanent scars on terrain nearby).

... It Scars the meadows forever.

... Causes drainage problems.

... Results in erosion.

... Causes an undesirable fast "run off" of the water resource.

... And eventually results in siltation of the streams.

3) There are numerous small Alpine Lakes in the area that can now be reached only by hiking and horseback. The fishing is quite good. Building a road, which would allow easy vehicle access to these lakes, would destroy the fishing

in one short summer -- forever. Restocking is costly and impractical. The crystal clear lakes are relatively infertile and the growing season is short.

4) Most of the wild game in the area is intolerant to man. The elk, for example, have been pushed by man into the last remaining remote areas such as these high mountains. Motorized vehicles would destroy the remoteness and quiet, and provide easy access into the area for local and out-of-state hunters, which will quickly destroy most of the remaining populations of game.

5) Motorized access by trail bikes and snowmobiles enables hunters and others to search out the game back in its deepest protective cover and breeding areas. (The sound of snowmobile, for example, will put an elk to flight 3 miles away).

6) Easy access by vehicle also results in considerable illegal "poaching" of game and cattle rustling.

7) As the result, it also increases game law enforcement costs and prosecution related costs for taxpayers.

8) Visitors remain in a roadless area such as the East Pioneers for several days, a week or more and spend money with local enterprises while they are here. They have to walk or ride horses to see the area. They are then closer to the beauty that has attracted them in the first place and they have a greater appreciation for the many interesting things they have seen. This brings them and their friends back to Montana. Build a road through the area, and they can "roar" through it in 10 minutes and be gone forever.

Canyon Lake

E. The Permanent Economic and Social Benefits of the East Pioneer Wilderness to Residents of Dillon and Beaverhead County -- for Today and Tomorrow and for our children and grandchildren.

1) In its present attractive condition to residents, ranchers and visitors who have chosen to visit or remain in the area, it provides numerous jobs and significant economic contributions to the area.

2) "Wilderness designation" for the East Pioneers will also help preserve the water quality and quantity, and continue to provide a continuous flow of water to the Big Hole River for irrigation, stock watering, and other agricultural purposes forever. The numerous undisturbed meadows, lakes and valleys in the East Pioneer Mountains hold the "run off" from the snow-fall and rain that accumulates in the winter and spring. It releases the water into the Big Hole River valley, as nature intended, when it's needed downstream throughout the summer and early fall.

3) "Wilderness designation" will continue to provide a protected area for local residents to continue to experience good fishing and hunting and to hike, back pack, camp, sightsee, and generally engage in the health-giving pursuits of such outdoor activities.

4) "Wilderness designation" will continue to provide an important food source for some families in the area that depend on such fish and wild game to help carry them through the fall and winter months.

5) The income from trapping is important to some families in the area.

6) "Wilderness designation" will allow resorts, motels, guiding and related tourism activities to continue to provide employment to local residents and to provide additional opportunities for such employment for Beaverhead County children and grandchildren for decades in the future.

7) As the anticipated population and tourist growth projected for the Dillon area becomes a reality, it will provide a "Park Like" remote area that all of us from the valley can go to, on occasion, to "get away from it all".

8) "Wilderness designation" will continue to provide a sanctuary and breeding ground for the fish and wildlife. As roads and influx of people crowd into the other easily accessible unprotected areas, it will survive as one of the few remaining areas for existence of such wild game and native fish populations.

9) It will continue to provide grazing opportunities for horses and cattle.

10) The sale of resident and non-resident fishing and hunting licenses are an important source of income for the State of Montana. Such income is used to conserve and improve many resources in the state. Without such receipts these efforts would have to be paid for by the taxpayer.

11) In Montana (as elsewhere) a statutory "Wilderness Area" has proven to be one of the most long lasting and important economic and social assets of nearby communities. Whereas, timber cutting in a fragile high mountain area such as the East Pioneers, provides only temporary income and temporary employment (until the timber runs out) a preserved area in "Wilderness" provides economic and social benefits that will last for decades and perhaps centuries.

Statutory "Wilderness" areas are currently the "life-blood" of many Montana communities such as Martin City, Ovando, Seeley Lake, Hurgry Horse, Coram and even Kalispell.

On the trail between Crescent and Teacup Lakes

F. Why Knowledgeable Forest Products Interests do not Oppose Wilderness Designation for this East Pioneer Area.

1) They know there is not much commercially harvestable timber in the final designated area. (If you harvested all of the commercially harvestable timber from the entire East Pioneer Wilderness Area all at one time in just one year, it would amount to less than 1% of Montana's total average annual timber harvest that year).

2) They understand that much of the area suitable for commercial timber harvest was removed from the officially proposed Wilderness area by the boundary adjustments prior to submission to the Congress.

3) They recognize that the costs of road building and maintenance for access to harvestable timber and the type of logging required in the proposed Wilderness cannot be economically justified.

4) They know that the timber is largely lodgepole pine. In these high altitudes, re-growth is very slow -- as long as 120 years for lodgepole pine.

G. Why Many Taxpayers and Local Business Owners and Managers Favor Wilderness Designation for the East Pioneer Area.

1) They know the area in its present condition attracts tourists to S.W. Montana which helps provide jobs to people they know and the business activity generated by the East Pioneers adds to the local economy.

2) Local merchants (who provide meals, lodging, clothing, food, and other provisions to visitors) know that such business is valuable to them and to the entire community as each tourism dollar multiplies itself several times throughout the community.

3) They are also aware of the long term economic contributions made to the local economies by "Wilderness Areas" in other parts of Montana and elsewhere in the West.

4) Construction of roads into such an area will destroy the tourism business the area now supports. The elimination of the income and jobs and related economic benefits presently provided by these lodges, motels, guides, retailers and related business would throw more welfare and unemployment burdens on local taxpayers.

5) They understand that because of the steep canyons, rugged rocky terrain, heavy snow fall, snow removal requirements, unstable soils and short seasonal accessibility, that the costs of building and maintaining roads for short term timber hauling or mining activities would create a long term financial burden on taxpayers.

H. Why Some Knowledgeable Geologists are not Likely to Oppose Wilderness Designation for the East Pioneer Area.

1) They know it is doubtful if the regulatory bodies, which are responsible for the environment and water quality, would allow mining in this area because of:

   a. Waste disposal problems in these steep, small canyons;

   b. The water pollution known to be caused by mining and processing of minerals;

   c. The awareness that even some abandoned mines continue to leach toxic acids into the creeks and rivers below them for decades; and

d. The concern that the land disturbances required to operate in this fragile area would undoubtedly result in the silting of several of the tributaries of the Big Hole River and cause other permanent damage to the area.

2) They know that road construction, maintenance and exploration costs in such terrain would further complicate their entry problems and add to their other costs and other environmental problems.

3) Much of the mining related activities in this century in the East Pioneers (primarily East of the Wilderness area) have been stock speculation and promotion schemes and have not been profitable ongoing mines for the investors or employees.

4) Geologists have thoroughly studied for decades every mile of the area for possible mineral potential -- on foot, by air, by horseback - with pick and shovel, etc. Some say the mineral potential is "simply not there".

5) As yet, there has not been a sufficient "find" of minerals in the designated Wilderness Area to justify the costs of getting the necessary permits, raising the money for establishing an economically viable mining activity, and convincing the government and the public that the East Pioneers should be turned over to the miners.

6) Building roads, drilling, and other mining activities in fragile High Mountain areas such as the East Pioneer Wilderness would:

a. In effect "lock out" the other users (the fishermen, hunters, horseback riders, tourists, lodge operators, guides, back packers, outfitters, bird watchers, etc). because the present Wilderness attributes that now attract them and make these mountains a valuable economic area simply would no longer exist.

b. and will destroy forever the potential for all the citizens of the county to realize the future long term economic and social benefits of the East Pioneer Wilderness Area.

7) They are aware of the jobs that the East Pioneers presently provide in servicing tourists and other visitors and residents that are attracted to the area.

8) They recognize that the proposed area for Wilderness only represents less than 2½% of the county which leaves them several million acres in which to operate.

9) Having grown up or lived near a mountain area, they have learned to appreciate the importance of keeping some part of nature they way God made it. Some also like to hunt and fish, and get away from noise and people in a beautiful primitive place. They know it's only right for Beaverhead County to have at least a small part of the county preserved for their children and grandchildren, and they are well aware that if any area qualifies for "Wilderness" preservation, the East Pioneer Mountain area is the number one candidate.

I. Why Many Ranchers do not Oppose the East Pioneer Wilderness

1) There is very little grazing in the area - only approximately 500 animal unit months.

2) Grazing will be continued when the area becomes a statutory Wilderness.

3) Ranchers know that fewer roads means less "rustling".

4) They are aware of the vital importance of protecting the source of the water in the Big Hole River from Wise River downstream.

J. Some Questions and Answers

1) Question: "The East Pioneers have been managed by the Forest Service virtually as if it were already a statutory wilderness area. Why is it necessary to put it into "statutory wilderness" now?"

Answer: It is vital, as described in this and other material and as established by the "Rare II" procedures, that the High Mountain tops of the East Pioneers be protected forever as a statutory wilderness area. Without such statutory recognition, the area is subject to such things as:

a. Changes of administrations,

b. Changes of attitudes in Washington,

c. Improvements in skill and effectiveness of lobbyists representing the exploitive industries.

d. The attitude of local Forest Service supervisory and ranger personnel. (Most of the decisions in the management of the forest are made at the local level. Although the present staff in the Beaverhead County Forest has proven itself to be very knowledgeable and of very high caliber, there are many other places across the United States where forests, streams, and lakes have been scarred and virtually destroyed forever as an economic resource because of a mistake that was made by the local ranger and other personnel. We can't let this happen to the East Pioneers because of their value as a wilderness area to all of the citizens of Southwest Montana.

2) Question: "It has been said that roads destroy the attraction of a remote area for visitors. Glacier National Park is frequently pointed out that as a tourist attraction it is a vital economic asset of the communities in that area of Montana and yet it has a heavily travelled road through it. How do you explain this?"

Answer: The Glacier National Park covers approximately 1 million acres. It does have a heavily traveled road that goes through the center of it and some smaller roads along and near the edges of the remote area. On each side of it are several hundred thousand acres of "Wilderness" that is protected from roads, logging, mining and other exploitation. You could put 4 or 5 areas the size of the East Pioneer Wilderness on each side of the road. These areas are protected in their Wilderness state and remain as a vital tourist attraction for all of Montana.

3) Question: "How can the old or crippled people drive to the lakes in the East Pioneers Wilderness for fishing.

Answer: If roads were built to any of these Alpine lakes in the proposed wilderness area, there would be no fishing remaining for anyone after a month or two because of the small size and infertility of the lakes. There are many small lakes and streams, however, that older and crippled people can drive to in or near the Pioneers outside of Wilderness.

Scott Lake

Conclusion

A statutory Wilderness area can be one of the most important economic and social assets a community can have. This is actually the case throughout Montana and other parts of the west.

The foregoing material reminds us of many of the things we have always known and it has also perhaps added to our knowledge about some of the "pros" and "cons" concerning "Wilderness" classification.

Several things are quite clear:

1) The proposed East Pioneer Wilderness is a small, unique, "one of a kind", fragile, high mountain top area.
2) It is and has been an important economic resource for S.W. Montana. It is essential to protect it from roads and exploitation and preserve it in its natural wild state. Protected as wilderness, it will continue to attract visitors and continue to provide jobs and tourism related economic activity.
3) Mining, timber and other exploitive activities and the entry of roads and motorized vehicles into the area would destroy its attractiveness to such visitors and would directly result in the loss of the jobs and the substantial revenues it produces for S.W. Montana and the State.

4) The East Pioneer Wilderness represents less than 2½% of the land in Beaverhead County and less than 1/10th of 1% of the State of Montana.

5) It is considered, by the U.S. Forest Service, wilderness groups, environmentalists, and others, to be one of the most important areas in all of the U.S.A. to protect from roads and exploitation.

6) In its current primitive state it provides many jobs, a food source, hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities for our local citizens.

7) As a tourist attraction it provides significant revenues for our merchants, motels, restaurants and many others.

8) In its protected state it provides a vital source of water for our ranches and other residents.

9) It is a sanctuary and breeding ground for our fish, game, and other wildlife.

10) The commercially harvestable timber in the Wilderness area is relatively insignificant, costly to remove, and, at best, would furnish only a little income and only a few jobs for a short period of time.

11) Road construction into the area would not only be costly to taxpayers, but would destroy forever its attraction for tourists and others and would also destroy the economic and social benefits that exist today and that will help furnish jobs and support our local economy and well-being for decades in the future.

12) Mining in such fragile high mountain areas benefits only a few (usually the promoters) -- has historically been a hit and miss, stop and go proposition -- historically scars and pollutes the land and streams -- destroys the area forever as a recreation, hunting, fishing, back packing, camping, and tourist attraction -- is too risky under today's economic conditions and environmental restraints -- and is simply not worth the gamble.

13) "Wilderness" protection allows many persons to benefit from this attractive resource -- not just a few.

14) In the past, we have done very little in Beaverhead County (compared to other parts of Montana and other western states) to set aside and protect areas like these for the future of our business enterprises, for our local citizens, and for our children and grandchildren.

We are very fortunate that we have the beautiful East Pioneer Mountains in our county and that all the research, public hearings, negotiations, discussions, adjustments, intra-agency approval, and documentation have all been secured and completed by the U.S. Forest Service and others so as to preserve the East Pioneer area in its present condition . (It remains to be finally approved by the U.S. Senate and House, where there is considerable interest in preserving the area).

We can thus be assured of always having this economic and social asset to help support Dillon and Beaverhead County residents in the decades ahead.

Abundance, Lower Canyon and Crescent Lakes

Senator MELCHER. Is Dean O'Leary here? I don't think so. John Guidoni. Bob McNeil.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT McNEIL, DILLON, MONT.

Mr. MCNEIL. My name is Robert McNeil. I run a guiding and outfitting service on the East and West Pioneers.

Gentlemen, we are in a guide and outfitting business in the West and East Pioneers. We have lived, worked, and played in the area since 1972. We experience daily the beauty and opportunities for recreation and solitude the area provides. Unfortunately, we also see the results and effects logging done in the last 10 years has had on the border areas that once were unspoiled. I am especially concerned about the West Pioneers whereas the East Pioneers and the other wilderness areas possess a large degree of protection by the nature of the land being high rocky peaks.

The West Pioneers are dominated by timber-covered rolling mountains. This provides ideal habitat for the large variety of wildlife such as elk, deer, and moose that reside ther in large numbers. There are many lakes and streams there that offer excellent trout fishing as well as supplying the water for the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.

This type of land also is attractive to the timber industry. There are a lot of trees and less rugged terrain that makes road building and cutting easier and less expensive. It is extremely rare to find this type of land that has not been already roaded.

The Forest Service drafted the EIS for the West Pioneers with a 26 out of 28 possible point rating. That is extremely high even among areas that have already received wilderness classification. In the same report, the timber productivity is rated low to very low.

Timber sales in this type of timber are not economically viable. To make up for the low quality timber they clear-cut large areas and leave buffers of trees between. Minimal cleanup and restoration is done.

One reason given for the timbering is concern about the pine beetle infestation. According to theory and practice of Mountain Pine Beetle management, these infestations have occurred throughout history and provide a continuous supply of food to maintain the vigor of the stand. When viewed over many generations of lodgepole pine, this area has always had the pine beetle, probably always will. There is no reason to believe it will be any worse than it has been in the past. It is surely no excuse for opening the area up for logging.

The mining potential in the West Pioneers is questionable still, as it has been for the last hundred years. There is supposed to be a large molybdenum deposit here as in many parts of the country which are not suitable for wilderness. The wilderness act makes provision for mining so that the necessity be shown. It looks to me to be a way of saving minerals for a time our Nation might depend on them for its survival while saving the nature of the land for future generations to enjoy.

The wilderness quality and character of the area are here now and are being enjoyed by locals as well as many tourists that come

to experience the finest fishing and hunting available. How many of these people will come to see clear-cuts and molly mines? It is crucial that these areas remain in a protected state. Roadless areas can be developed, but developed areas can never be made wilderness.

We again extend the invitation to let us show you the area firsthand before making your decision. It would be most enlightening to see both the areas that have been logged as well as the roadless areas. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Mike Mosolf. He's not here. Nick Novich.

STATEMENT OF NICK NOVICH, TWIN BRIDGES, MONT.

Mr. Novich. I would like to address the entire Montana delegation. My name is Nick Novich and I have a ranch 6 miles southwest of Twin Bridges which I've operated since 1950 and still operate.

I would like to support the proposed West Big Hole Wilderness as outlined in the Beaverhead Forest plant management plan. This area has some of the most outstanding basins of the entire forest. We have an unusually high snowpack year after year and the snow melts especially in the late season of July and August to, no doubt, serve the backbone of the Big Hole River.

This is a rather small area as compared to other areas in the State. I think this is what makes it so unique.

I first started going into this area in 1950. Since then I don't think I've missed a year that I haven't gone into some of the drainages. I've always had a day or two at the most, but anybody that can hike can go up to the Divide and come back in 1 day or 2. This is rather unique because some of the bigger areas—like I took a trip to the Absaroka area over there at Cook City. It takes a week to even get into it. This area, when you consider it along with the Forest Service proposal of Little Lake Miner Recreation Area right next to it which still allows RV use and post and pole cutting and similar activities, deserves a high consideration for protection.

I would also like to comment on the Tory Mountain Wilderness. This is the East Pioneer area and, as just stated before here, it has some beautiful basins back in there, high mountain peaks, very high water producer for the area, and has numerous high mountain lakes people can enjoy. I think it's essential we keep this area as roadless as we can.

I would also like to adjunct just briefly on the addition of the North Big Hole unit, which is over by the Anaconda Pintlars, as an addition to this area. This is a small corridor, kind of like a wildlife corridor up in there in between two areas managed for timber management. It is roadless. It's just an outstanding small area right there for big game, uninhibited travel form, and I would urge hard consideration for this.

I would also like to touch upon the West Pioneers. It's ironic no doubt there are areas in the West Pioneers probably more remote, less visited than any in the forest; but, also, it has very good timber potential in areas, too. I would have to agree with previous testimony here that we certainly need some type of wildlife protection for

those elk herds up in there whatever form that may take; but, it certainly has to have some type of obvious look in that West Pioneer area.

I would close my testimony and ask the congressional delegation to resist any form of RARE III review. I think we've had studies. We've had hearings and meetings. I think we've had about all that can be done to these particular areas and I think the job now is which you gentlemen will have, to decide what is going to happen to them.

I thank you for the opportunity to be able to come here and present my views.

Also, Tim Tollett is not going to be here, but I have written testimony I would like to give on his behalf after we recess this panel. Thank you.

[Mr. Tollett's letter follows:]

FRONTIER ANGLERS,
Dillon, Mont.

To the people of southwestern Montana: As a fly shop owner and outfitter of Dillon I count on the Bighole River and its tributaries as a big part of my income. Starting in late May and continuing thru September we run a large part of our guided trips on this river. In fact, this year so far we have taken a total of 48 trips down the Bighole. Some of our trips start at Fishtrap, some at Dickie Bridge, some at Divide Bridge, some at Melrose and so on down the line. Meaning we use a large portion of the river.

If this river was lost to logging the people of southwestern Montana would lose a large portion of their summer income because not only do these summer fishermen, (campers etc.), shop at our store they also eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at local restaurants, buy gifts at local gift shops, and get gas, clothes, etc., at shops, all around the area.

I feel as many people do that the Bighole River is to be saved, not harmed. If we lose the timber of the Pioneers the Bighole will never be the same. Water would come down too fast in the spring, which would make the river too low to float fish during our summer months.

Please, we need the Bighole River left as it is and maybe even try and improve it.

Thank you,

TIM TOLLETT.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. We'll take Tim Tollett's testimony immediately following Larry Haney, who is the last one on the panel.

STATEMENT OF LARRY HANEY, WISDOM, MONT.

Mr. HANEY. Senator and Congressmen, first of all, I would like to say I don't oppose logging or mining or wilderness all in the right areas. My chief concern is the Clam Valley area and it's been talked about a lot today; so, I don't see how it can be passed off and not reconsidered as a valuable roadless area.

There are clearcuts on the east and west ends on the Pintlar and Plimpton that is plenty manageable and still has plenty of timber and has been managed. There is no reason to go into Clam Valley or the surrounding areas and damage the calving ground for the fresh-water clams. It's a highly qualified recreation area.

In 1978 the area was designated as a roadless area. Somehow a road got in there. Nobody knows how. That's for sure. But a lot of people that I've talked to had deep concerns and opposed the road. They opposed the road completely.

I'm not saying they oppose the logging. They opposed the road. They didn't want the road in there. The area habitats, gray wolf,

which is damned near extinct and we know that, which makes it unique, too. And the biggest thing I think is it borders the wilderness, we all know, and it's a small area to ask of to keep along the wilderness so it doesn't become an island.

The timber, I wouldn't even call it marginal. It's lousy, really, And, by golly, I don't know how much more I've got to say here, just that this area has got to be maintained like it is. I don't know if it takes wilderness or some other type of management.

I would like to say the West Pioneers do need some discreet action as far as wildlife protection. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Thanks all of you on the panel. Our next panel and last panel is Frank Mischrot, Don Peoples, John Eliel, Bill Hand, Dr. Ed Bingler, Tom Beck, and Allen Beall.

Frank, you are first.

STATMENT OF FRANK MISCHROT, BUTTE, MONT.

Senator MISCHROT. My name is Frank Mischrot and I'm from Butte. First of all, I want to thank you for letting me participate in the system that's made our country and our State great.

Let me draw your attention to the map. Whereas we talk in percentages of the amount of wilderness in the State of Montana, we are, in essence, gentlemen, talking about one-third of the State. We are talking about us here in western Montana, OK.

I personally don't want any more wilderness area. We already have the Bob Marshall, the Scapegoat, Pintlar, Mission, Great Bear, Selway, Bitterroot, and a couple of smaller areas. The area that is already in wilderness in the western third of our State is larger than some of our Eastern and Northeastern States.

I would like at this time to prevail upon you to recommend that all of the roadless areas affected by RARE II and recommended by the study as nonwilderness to be released as multiple-use areas and restored to the same type of access, no additional access, mind you, for permanent-type access as they had prior to 1975.

One point of contention I have is I used Thunderbolt Mountain beginning in 1958 and I hunted on that mountain until 1976. At that time my access to the mountain was cut off because of the RARE II studies. I set the precedent in using a Forest Service-built Jeep trail and a Forest Service-maintained Jeep trail until somebody decided to make a study of the area and shut them off. I would like to be able to go back up there and take the last of my three sons up there with me.

Wilderness and roadless areas, I feel, cater to outfitters and private interest groups. We all don't have the time to spend a week in the mountains when you only have 3 weeks vacation and you have to work the other 49 weeks out of the year. We all don't get the summer off. We all don't get the hunting season off. We all don't get the snowmobile season off. Most of us have to use the areas I'm talking about on a weekend-type basis and mainly, if you want to keep your wife happy, you can only use it 1 day out of that. We don't have the time to walk through a wilderness area.

Another reason, I feel we need the mineral severance taxes and the money generated from lumber and mining to help support our State. We all know we have a very large State and very few people

support it. We all need the industry for jobs that area designated as nonwilderness can provide through lumber, mining, and grazing.

These areas must be released for multiple-use immediately. As has been said before, too many of the tax dollars of mine and yours have already been spent since 1970 to study and evaluate. I don't want any more of my bucks spent like that. We all know the recommendation and we understand the language and the language is sufficient. We understand, then, so let's make a decision on them and let's make it quickly.

I feel that the resources were put here by the Lord or however they got here; and, if they weren't meant to be used, we wouldn't have evolved. Technology wouldn't have given us the means to use these and provide jobs and be able to vote in this country. Gentleman, thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Frank.

John Eliel.

STATEMENT OF JOHN ELIEL, CHAIRMAN, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. ELIEL. Senator Melcher and Congressman Williams and Congressman Marlenee and gentlemen, thank you for being here. I'm submitting written testimony and will restrict my comments to one or two matters which affect county government.

My name is John Eliel and I'm representing the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners.

As you are well aware, county governments are in a terrible squeeze between a declining tax base and the need to supply necessary services. Fiscal 1981 and 1982 saw Beaverhead County revenues from forest receipts of $134,600. Fiscal 1982 and 1983 saw receipts of $51,593.

While this loss was due to poor market conditions, it points to the sensitivity of county services to forest income in the rural counties in western Montana. And in the use of livestock, to use cattle as an example, county government is subject to two impacts if cattle grazing is lost from forest lands. Last year cattle provided 25 percent of $1.86 per animal unit per month and each cow gave $3.41 to our tax rolls.

The impact of mining restriction will affect us and will be addressed, I'm sure, by those in this field.

The loss of forest revenues has a ripple effect on county governments. Not only is the principal, the cattleman or logger, impacted; but, so is the trucker, the sawmill worker, and all supporting personnel and services.

Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners wishes to go on the record supporting the multiple-use concept of management practice for our forests. Thank you, gentleman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Eliel follows:]

BEAVERHEAD

County Commissioners

Dillon, Montana

July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands Subcommittee
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: John Eliel
Beaverhead County Commissioner
Dillon, Montana 59725

Senator Melcher:

Local governments are fast becoming paralized by tow pincer forces. On the one hand we have a declining tax base brought on by state government's attempt to equalize the tax land between various tax groups. On the other point is the need to deliver services on a broader plane than ever before.

To county officials, it is a numbing thought to contemplate the loss of still more revenues by the possibility of additional areas being designated as wilderness.

Beaverhead County in 1982 had a budget of $2,404,080.00. The sources of revenue included $51,593.00 (excluding those monies paid directly to the schools) from forest service timber, mineral and grazing fees. In the prior year, 1981-1982, our receipts from this source was $134,600.00. I point this out to show the loss to the county treasury when timber sales are reduced - from whatever cause.

In the case of livestock, the County is hit twice by the reduction of grazing privileges. First, the County loses its share of the grazing fee. But the most devastating effect comes from the elimination of tax base as a rancher's cow, sheep or horse herd is reduced in size as some of his hay land is returned

to pasture. In our County, each cow produced $3.41 of revenue.

The loss of income from restricted mining activity is harder to pin point but will no doubt be addressed by other witnesses.

A reduction in any one of these forest activities is economically intensified by a ripple effect, though this hard to quantify. The loss of a job means the loss of a household. Does the family leave the community? If so does not local business also lose? Does a sawmill close? Does a logging trucker forfeit his job? Does he need welfare? (Creating a double impact on the county treasury.)

The people we are dealing with are all breadwinners - ranchers, loggers, mill workers, miners, truck drivers. I can't overemphasize the effect of the loss of a single job to our small community - both from a humanistic and a monetary viewpoint.

What is wrong with the multiple use concept of managing our forest recources? Nothing really. It has served everyone well for many years.

To set aside additional large areas of these lands with wilderness disignation will hurt us individually as it will seriously restrict local government ability to deliver needed service.

Sincerely,

John Eliel

John Eliel, Chairman
Beaverhead County Commissioners

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Dr. Bingler.

STATEMENT OF DR. EDWARD C. BINGLER, DIRECTOR AND STATE GEOLOGIST, MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

Mr. BINGLER. Senator Melcher and members of the congressional delegation, my name is Ed Bingler. I'm State geologist and director of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, a mineral resource department at Montana Tech in Butte.

I'm speaking in opposition to the RARE II final environmental statement because its recommendations would exclude substantial areas of significant metallic mineral potential in western Montana from further mineral exploration or mine development. This result would come at a time when our country is increasingly dependent on foreign supplies for mineral products, particularly for stretagic and critical minerals, and when our domestic mineral industry has been weakening by plant closures and lost jobs. I do not believe that further weakened of our mineral industry is in the best interest of the nation or Montana.

Many of the proposed wilderness and further study areas have substantial mineral potential. For this brief testimony I will focus on four areas close to where we sit today. These are the Pioneer Mountains, wildernes area 1-008 and further study area 1-006; the Sapphire Mountains, further study area 1-421; the central part of the Flint Creek Range, further study areas 1-428 and 1-429; and, the Tobacco Root Mountains, further study area 1-013.

These areas have the following characteristics in common: First, they are known to include occurrences of base and precious metals and offer significant potential for location and development of new mineral deposits. Second, they have already been the site of extensive mineral exploration by the private sector, a fact that confirms their potential. Third, they offer the future prospect of new mine development, the creation of wealth, new jobs, and significant contributions to the economic base of Montana.

There is a fundamental principle that must be observed in land use decisions involving mineral production or future development. That principle is that given favorable indication of mineral occurrence, the controlling variables for future extraction and use are commodity price and mining cost. Areas of mineral potential should not be excluded from future development because economic conditions have temporarily drawn down price or that the cost of present mining technology is high. Both those variables can, do, and will change.

Highly regarded mine development projects in Montana like the Golden Sunlight at Whitehall and the Troy Mine near Libby were not feasible in the past when gold sold for $35 per ounce and silver for $1.50 per ounce. Favorable changes in controlling variables have added these major contributors to Montana's wealth.

I urge your opposition to further land withdrawals through the creation of additional wilderness and further study areas. Montana has a rightful place as a major mineral producer. We should not lose that potential through the adoption of the northern region plan as proposed. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Tom Beck.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. BECK, MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Mr. BECK. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, and Congressman Marlenee, I am Tom Beck, county commissioner from Powell County. I am here today representing many of the concerned citizens of Powell County, the Montana Association of Counties, and the National Association of Counties.

I've got some written testimony but I think it's too lengthy to try to go through completely, so I'm going to talk to you just a little bit in generalities and concerning what Maco., Naco., and Powell County have about the wilderness located in western Montana and throughout the whole country as far as that goes.

Counties receive substantial revenue from public lands such as the Forest Service receipt payments. And it is essential a good economy exist on the public lands for the benefit of the local governments.

In my own particular county, we receive $200,000 to $300,000 on Forest Service receipt payments alone. This goes to the schools and the county roads in our county to offset some of the impacts. "Pilt" at the moment, I guess, is very much in limbo.

The National Association of Counties passed a resolution addressing the very issue you are talking about here today. This is to get the RARE II study going again. I'm not going to go into detail on this, but it was on Senate bill 842. And I'm not too familiar if this has anything to do with anything we are talking about here today.

It is to say let's quit the court decisions and what have you and get the thing rolling. This is sitting dead and we want the Forest Service to be able to come out with a plan and get back with the business at hand at this day and age.

I would like to say—talk a little bit about the Powell County area, the Flint Creek Wilderness Study which has been recommended by RARE II for further study. I guess the one major point I want to make here is that there are storage lakes in this area. These lakes, the dams, were built on these previous to the Forest Service even being in existence. I don't know the legality of this, but these people have to have access to these dams to be able to maintain them properly according to Forest Service regulations.

This takes a road. You have to have some kind of equipment. I think one of the important things—and especially in my country where we have only 12 inches of rainfall. We have to conserve water, land, and whatever. I think this is one of the biggest environmental considerations in this county. There's another one which was proposed in the Cottonwood Lake area and the Thunderbolt Mountain area.

I want to say this much. I just went in there over the Fourth of July weekend. Beautiful country back in there. But it also can work both ways. You can see the beauty of it. This country has been clearcut at times, but they reestablished the forest. I see deer,

elk, any kind of an animal you want the see in that country, beautiful new stands of timber. And, yet, there is still some logable timber.

These are the places we have to look at the economic development. We've put a lot of people to work by use of the public lands. I certainly don't want to see that come to a halt. We have to maintain as many jobs in our frivolous economy in western Montana as we can. It seems to be coming back. Let's keep it going.

So I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today. And, believe me, we want to see our economy and local governments go. Let's keep it going that right direction. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Beck follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. BECK, POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES AND PUBLIC LANDS STEERING COMMITTEE

SENATOR MELCHER:

I AM TOM BECK COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM POWELL COUNTY. I AM HERE TODAY REPRESENTING MANY OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF POWELL COUNTY, THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES.

COUNTIES HAVE LONG HAD AN INTEREST IN HOW THE PUBLIC LANDS ARE USED AND MANAGED. COUNTIES ARE RECEIPIENTS OF TWO VERY IMPORTANT FEDERAL PAYMENTS GENERATED BY THE PUBLIC LANDS. NUMBER ONE IS THE FOREST SERVICE RECEIPTS PAYMENTS WHICH IS GENERATED BY TIMBER SALES, GRAZING FEES AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE FROM THE PUBLIC LANDS TO HELP OFFSET THE IMPACTS TO COUNTY ROADS AND SCHOOLS. THE SECOND IS A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES COMMONLY KNOW AS PILT WHICH IS A PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO ALL FEDERAL PROPERTIES.

THE RARE II STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOREST SERVICE IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AREAS AS POSSIBLE ROADLESS OR WILDERNESS AREAS. THE FOREST SERVICE WAS ABOUT READY TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR PUBLIC INPUT TO THESE AREAS WHEN A COURT DICISION IN CALIFORNIA STATED THAT FURTHER STUDIES WERE NEEDED. EACH NATIONAL FOREST HAD VOLUMNS OF STATEMENTS BY THIS TIME THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD READ LET ALONE UNDERSTAND. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AT ITS 1982 CONVENTION.

WHEREAS: THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES SUPPORTS THE MULTIPLE-USE CONCEPT, BY AREA OF PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT, OVER THE SO-CALLED "DOMINANT-USE" APPROACH; AND

WHEREAS:S-842, THE PROPOSED RARE II REVIEW ACT, WOULD DECLARE COMPLETION OF THE RARE II STUDY AND VERIFY THE FACTUAL SUFFICIENCY OF THE RARE II FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, SO AS TO PREVENT FURTHER COURT CHALLENGES AND FURTHER DELAY OF THE RARE II PROCESS; AND

WHEREAS: S 842 WOULD PROVIDE RESONABLE DEADLINES FOR CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AS WILDERNESS OR MULTIPLE-USE LANDS, AND THEREBY REMOVE UNCERTAINTY FOR COUNTIES DEPENDENT UPON FOREST INDUSTRY JOBS AND REVENUES;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ENDORSES S 842, THE PROPOSED RARE II REVIEW ACT OF 1981.

IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE RARE II STUDY BE COMPLETED SO THAT THE FOREST SERVICE CAN CONTINUE TO PREPARE AND ISSUE FOREST PLANS AND FOREST USERS WILL BE ASSURED THE CONTINUED USE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITES OF THE FOREST LANDS.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO ADDRESS THE RARE II STUDIES IN POWELL COUNTY FOR A MOMENT. AN AREA IN THE FLINT MOUNTAIN RANGE FROM THE RACE TRACK DRAINAGE TO THE DOLUS

LAKE AREA KNOWN AS 1-428 AND 1-429 ON THE FOREST SERVICE MAP HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER STUDY AS A ROADLESS AREA. IF THIS WERE TO BECOME A ROADLESS AREA IT WOULD VERTUALLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE STORAGE DAMS IN THIS AREA WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TAKE HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO THESE DAMS FOR REPAIRS WHEN NECESSARY. CONSERVATION OF WATER IS ESSENTIAL IN A COUNTY THAT ONLY HAS AN ANNUAL RAINFALL OF TWELVE INCHES. ALSO TIMBER IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE WHICH I FEEL IS THE TYPY OF RESOURCES WE SHOULD BE USING. IN THIS AREA THERE IS A NUMBER OF MATURE TIMBER STANDS THAT ARE QUITE ACCESSABLE TO LOGGING. THIS AREA IS ALSO TOO SMALL TO MANAGE PROPERLY AS A WILDERNESS AREA. ANOTHER AREA THAT WAS CONSIDERED WAS 1-609 ON THE FOREST SERVICE MAP OR THE COTTONWOOD LAKE AREA. I DROVE INTO THIS AREA OVER THE JULY 4TH WEEKEND. THE NEW STANDS OF TREES IN THE ALREADY LOGGED OFF AREAS COMMONLY KNOW AS "CLEAR CUTS" WERE AS PRETTY TO SEE AS A WILDERNESS. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE THIS AREA BECOME ROADLESS FOR THERE IS A LARGE QUANTITY OF LOGGABLE TIMBER WHICH COULD ENHANCE THE ECONOMY OF POWELL COUNTY. THE OTHER AREA BEING CONSIDERED IS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF POWELL COUNTY AROUND THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS. MOST OF THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS LIES IN POWELL COUNTY. THE POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MINOR EXPANSION OF THE WILDERNESS IN THE SCAPE

GOAT AREA BUT BASICLY WE FEEL THAT THE RENEWABLE RRESOURCES SHOULD BE USED AND THAT THE PUBLIC LANDS SHOULD USE THE "MULTIPLE-USE" CONCEPT WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURTS DECISION IN APRIL 1982 HAS TO BE RESOLVED. POWELL COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING AN OMNIBUS WILDERNESS BILL FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA. WE FEEL THAT SUFFICIENT LANGUAGE AND STUDIES HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED IN THE RARE II PLAN AND THAT IT SHOULD BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. I AM ALSO QUITE SURE THAT THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES IS IN SUPPORT OF THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION.

I WANT TO THANK YOU SENATOR FOR HOLDING THESE HEARINGS ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND I HOPE THAT THIS PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED SOON.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Tom.
Allen Beall.

STATEMENT OF ALLEN BEALL, MAYOR, CITY OF PHILIPSBURG, MONT.

Mr. BEALL. Members of the Montana congressional delegation, I'm happy to see all of you here. I don't know how you take it day after day.

My name is Allen Beall. I'm mayor of Philipsburg, a community that I feel would be directly affected by forming this proposed wilderness area.

The secondary water supply for Philipsburg comes from the South Boulder drainage area. In the summer this water supply is necessary for sufficent water for residential use in our community. This water system is of the old wire-tied wooden lines except where some repairs have been made. It is in need of much repair that would require the use of machinery to update the waterline. It is very possible that we may need to use this water supply the year round in the very near future; so, the replacing of the system will become a must to maintain the water supply required.

Philipsburg is basically a mining and ranching area with the timber industry an important addition to our economy. Any means to affect our economy negatively would be detrimental to the area residents.

Our mill valuation is going down yearly as it is and our community has suffered great financial problems because of various logging shutdowns and so forth. We cannot afford any action that would cause more unemployment and families to move.

The town of Philipsburg is not able to provide adequate service to our residents in street maintenance, water and sewer system updating, and so forth. We are even using revenue sharing moneys to provide law enforcement.

I go on record speaking for the town council and the citizens of Philipsburg as being strongly opposed to these proposed wilderness areas in our part of the State.

Thank you for letting me testify.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Allen. This concludes all the witnesses on this panel and concludes all the witnesses that are present unless there is some witness that is now present that wasn't here at the right time.

The hearing record will remain open until August 1 so additional written statements can be submitted to the hearing record. You need not be a witness to submit a written statement. So if you so choose to do so, do so by August 1. You can submit the statement to any one of our offices or to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Washington, D.C. That's sufficient.

We've had 104 witnesses today and I appreciate your testimony very much. This goes along with what we heard in Missoula the day before yesterday and we will hear in Great Falls. It begins the process of developing the hearing record we can draw upon for conclusions in drafting the bill.

I'll repeat one thing. If you want a printed copy of the entire hearing record, sign up in the lobby out there. Leave your name and address and a copy will be sent to you when it's printed. It probably will be some time in September or October.

Is Roy Burkhart here? He was called earlier.

STATEMENT OF ROY BURKHART, SWAN LAKE, MONT.

Mr. BURKHART. Hello. I'm sorry as I didn't know I was on the first of the list. I didn't get here in time to speak and I appreciate the opportunity to speak now.

I would like to urge conservationist practices. I've heard people speaking about how conservation infringes on their rights. I heard a lady call environmentalism a problem. Well, I would say the white people are all foreign to this land and I don't see any reason why we can't protect a heck of a lot more than 3 percent of this land.

I understand a lot of people have economic needs. I don't understand why they feel they can't sacrifice a little bit or find an alternative source of employment.

I value the wild lands of America completely. I feel they are one of our resources that can be preserved. They can mine elsewere. Why do they need to come to the mountains? Things surely don't exist only there.

I'm for all the wilderness proposals I've come across. I'm sure if there was one to ease a shortage of raw material I probably wouldn't object to it. But I feel when somebody claims they only offered 3 percent of Montana to wilderness and a lot of people are griping about that, I wonder why they call it Montana anymore.

It used to be a bald eagle wild and free all over the land. Any man could go anywhere he wanted. Now a man can't go hardly anywhere. The land is private ownership and sealed up. Places that are wild and free are scarred.

I object to multiple use. I feel that wilderness and multiple use should be hand in hand. They should balance equally 10 percent wilderness, 10 percent localized development. Why tear 97 percent of the State up?

I feel, again, white men, which I am one, need to see the beauty of this land and rise to protect it because once it's gone, it's gone.

I don't know. I don't know what to say. I don't know. I feel there is a real communication barrier somewhere in this country. Somewhere we got so many people where are we going to have a place that is wild lands? I've lived in the West my whole life. I've seen Arizona and Utah and Nevada and a lot of places defaced in a lot of ways I don't approve of. A lot of it is multiple-use concepts which I don't approve of.

The land is sacred. The people that go there and feel it find a sacred attitude because they have the eyes to see it. Jesus spoke of a man, "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder." Ali of this land is sacred and the spiritual power flows through all of it. Any man can go to any point of it and see the beautiful power of this land; but, I see men now scarring it and that's a power I'm ashamed of.

I think people need to recognize the sacred character of the land. If they are going to deface it, God help them.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. That concludes the hearing. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, the hearing was recessed, to reconvene Saturday, July 9, 1983, in Great Falls, Mont.]

MONTANA WILDERNESS

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1983

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Great Falls, Mont.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., at the College of Great Falls, Great Falls, Mont., Hon. John Melcher, presiding.

Present: Senators Melcher and Baucus, and Congressmen Williams and Marlenee.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order now. This is the third and final Montana hearing on the various proposals for RARE II, the Lee Metcalf study bill and the question of release language, and sufficiency language in a bill for those areas not considered to be suitable for wilderness. We are here in Montana this week to begin the process leading up to introduction of a bill. These hearings this week at Missoula on Tuesday and Anaconda on Thursday and here in Great Falls today, are really the first step in a long journey toward production of a bill, action on a bill both in the House and in the Senate, and final passage by the signature of the President. The appropriate first step in that is always to come to the grassroots, to the Montana people and ask them for thier views, their findings and their judgment on each of these areas to the extent that it is possible.

The delegation is united and committed to introduction of a bill to clear up as many of the areas as possible by the end of this year. There will be one further hearing, it will be in Washington, and we will ask comments on specific areas and specific points from the Forest Service, and hope that would be conducted sometime by the end of September or the first of October. We are actually meeting as a Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water, the Senate Energy Committee.;

We have a long witness list. I think all of you can receive a copy of that witness list by asking for it from any of our aides. There are several circulating here today. We would like each panel to be ready to come promptly when called. This is necessary because we have over 100 witnesses and we will only allot 3 minutes per individual. We have also suggested, and I hope we will find it true

today, that some of you will yield time, your time, to a spokesman for your point of view to the extent that it is possible. It makes for a better hearing record for us. Those of you who will be testifying for 3 minutes, please adhere to the signal when it goes off. You'll be timed, and you'll hear the gong, and please adhere to that. All of your written statements will be made a part of the record. Highlight your testimony to flag our attention and our staff's attention to those points that you consider to be most sigfnificant and most specific in your recommendations.

I can't think of anything else at this time. Max, do you have some opening remarks?

STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, John. John outlined where we are, I have just three very quick points to make here. No. 1, this series of hearings is the first time the entire delegation has sat together at the same time on the same panel on the same subject. That, I think indicates the seriousness of the issue. It indicates, too, the unity, not only we of the delegation, but in my judgment, the entire State is showing. We want to resolve this question as quickly, with as much certainty, and with as much predictability as we possibly can. I think the timber industry outfitters, snowmobilers, and all groups are tired of further studies. We went to study as quickly as we can what areas in Montana are wilderness, what areas are not, so we can get on with it. I think that's the main reason we are all together on this and I hope this actions sets a good precedent. It is important that when issues of this magnitude come up in our State, we do act quickly as expeditiously.

John has indicated we are in agreement at these hearings to address the issue. I firmly hope this year we can have a statewide decisions but also statewide sufficiency and have it resolved.

The final point I would like to make is that there appears to be much greater consensus, cooperation, and accommodation among groups than I have seen before. There is less polarization. Groups are realizing more and more that they have to put themselves in the other guy's and gal's shoes a little bit, walk around in them a little bit and see another person's point of view. I think that's the nature of the compromise, that's the nature of the cooperation and agreement. So I encourage all of us to keep marching down that road. It's very important that we work together, and I know we're going to keep doing that. The more we do it, the more we'll resolve.

We had two great hearings in Anaconda and Missoula, and I expect this one will be as good. Thank you, John.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Max. Pat, do you have some opening remarks?

STATEMENT OF HON. PAT WILLIAMS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you. I appreciate the unique opportunity to have a congressional hearing and joining the congressional hearing in the eastern district with my colleagues from the Senate and my colleague and friend and pal in the House, Ron Marlenee. Max and

John are both correct, one of the things we have heard time and again from more than 200 witnesses now, is that they want a resolution as quickly and appropriately as possible with regard to this RARE II question, which is now 4 years old. I personally have found a refreshing level of tolerance among folks who have testified before us, tolerance for the other's point of view even if it isn't similar to theirs. And I have also found more of a trying to work together between the two main communities of the conservationists on one hand and the industrial and productivity folks on the other. I was involved in two wilderness hearings before this set a hearings started, and I did not find that same type of general agreement and consensus as I found in these hearings, and that's very important for us.

Montana's economy is much like its geography, it's varied and it's diverse, and therefore it's not surprising we would have varied and diverse opinions about how to use Montana's land and particularly its great remaining wild places, how to use them and how to protect them. The congressional delegation reflects that diversity, and the more you come together, the better able we are to come together. So speaking for myself, I appreciate what I found to be fairly rapidly coming together of opinions on the bulk of areas that are under consideration.

We now, of course, know that some of the areas, Montanans are not going to agree on, and it will probably simply come down to the final process of votes in the Senate and House to see how this final omnibus bill will appear.

Again, I appreciate being here and I took forward to your testimony.

Senator MELCHER. Ron.

STATEMENT OF HON. RON MARLENEE, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. MARLENEE. Thank you, Senator. The wilderness question and controversy in my opinion must be settled. The question of sufficiency must be addressed and the ability of various groups to bring lawsuits must be curtailed. These lawsuits are hamstringing the Nation and now threaten the jobs of several hundred Montanans, in my opinion, sufficiency must be addressed. I have tried to attach that kind of language to the Lee Metcalf wilderness bill. The chairman of that committee insisted that it not be, and in the spirit of compromise and deference, I withdrew that request for sufficiency in deference to my colleagues who wanted expeditious passage of that bill. If you have the consensus to work together among the delegation, and I hope that this meeting will further improve the relationship of the various groups that are out here.

The chairman of that committee also wants to add Deep Creek to that bill, further hindering the passage of the Lee Metcalf wilderness area. I think we need to look at the whole package of wilderness areas, including Deep Creek, which many of you are very interested in here, which I will address a little later in this meeting. There are several concerns along the Rocky Mountain front that I see. Several questions should be asked before we address any more wilderness along the Rocky Mountain front.

First, what will be the impact on our eastern Montana citizens. The public lands belong to all of us, not any special interest groups. Our Montana users, eastern Montana users of public lands, are basically wilderness recreationalists and nonwilderness hunters, and to channel hundreds of those people from eastern Montana into a small pie-shaped piece of public land would be a travesty. The second question is what would be the impact on the hunting opportunities and game management. There is strong evidence, a wilderness designation could in fact be detrimental to the game populations and in fact is detrimental to the management of such populations. This must be addressed, and I think that we are here to look at that.

To have this bill moved too quickly on these Rocky Mountain front areas would be a travesty. We must not only look for the protection of those lands, but we must look to the public land use of the recreationalists, of eastern Montanans along the Rocky Mountain front. And when you look at all of that area from that front, which stops at that Forest Service line and runs all the way to the Dakotas, it's a very important question that we have to address.

Lastly, what will be the impact of the additional areas on the oil and gas reserves and on the management of our natural resources, our renewable resources within those areas? Those are the questions that we are seeking answers to. I welcome you here and I appreciate the Senator holding hearings and my colleagues appearing here in the eastern district with us. Thank you, Senator Melcher.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. All of the witnesses will please hold their written statements until they are called on and actually come to the witness table and we will pick them up there.

The hearing record will be held open until approximately the 1st of August. Any of you who wish to submit written testimony, either to add to what you have given orally or what you have presented today, you're welcome to do so. The same goes for anybody else who is not signed up as a witness but does wish to submit written testimony. That will be received up until about the 1st of August and will be made part of this hearing record, so that if you don't have it with you today, if you want to submit it at a later time, you can submit it to any one of our field offices or you can send it directly to the committee itself which is the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Washington, D.C. That's the total address, it will get in the right place. Either that or it can be given to one of our field offices, they will make sure that it gets there. The hearing records will be printed, and it will probably be sometime late in September before they are available. But if you care to get a copy of the printed hearing records of Missoula, Anaconda, and here today in Great Falls, you may receive one simply by leaving your name and address on a signup sheet that's out there in the lobby.

I think that concludes all the opening announcements we have. We'll call the first panel right now, please come to the witness table.

Bryan Couglin.

Mr. SUNDQUIST. Senator, my name is Jim Sundquist, Bryan was unable to be here today and I will be making the statement.

Senator MELCHER. All right.

STATEMENT OF JAMIE SUNDQUIST, PROFESSIONAL GEOPHYSICIST AND OVERTHRUST PROJECT LEADER, SOHIO PETROLEUM CO., ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Mr. SUNDQUIST. My name is Jim Sundquist, I'm a professional geophysicist and overthrust project leader for Sohio Petroleum Co.'s Rocky Mountain Division based in Denver. Our company is a wholly owned exploration and production subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co. of Ohio.

Sohio Petroleum is a relative newcomer to oil and gas exploration in the Rocky Mountain region. As a late entrant, we are focusing our efforts on those areas offering the best potential for near-term discoveries of major hydrocarbon reserves.

Many of the national forest lands under discussion this week lie within the Rocky Mountain overthrust belt, a geologic province with all the attributes necessary for large accumulations of petroleum and natural gas. Oil industry and Government estimates acknowledge that the overthrust belt probably contains a significant proportion of the remaining undiscovered onshore recoverable reserves in the United States. The overthrust is therefore an area of heavy exploration emphasis for Sohio.

The petroleum industry has already established prolific production and proven reserves on the overthrust to the north in Canada and to the south in Wyoming and Utah. These successes have been the result of extensive seismic surveys and a sustained high level of exploration drilling activity. During the course of this work, the industry has demonstrated its ability to carry out oil and gas exploration and development with minimal adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. I would also mention that Sohio, the company I work for, has extensive experience in environmentally preserving areas where we operate. We have an excellent record in Alaska where we were the major force behind the construction of the 800 mile long Trans-Alaskan pipeline and at Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope where we are continuing to develop this country's largest oil field.

So far, the Montana portion of the overthrust has not been as intensively explored as the major producing trends to the north and south. Complex geology, difficult access, remoteness from markets, and unfavorable economics have all been negative factors limiting exploration in the past. However, technological advances, increased demand for domestic hydrocarbon reserves and improved economics have now combined to make oil and gas exploration in the Montana overthrust not only feasible, but essential, to fully evaluate the nation's energy resource base.

Recent discoveries at Blackleaf Canyon and Two Medicine Creek demonstrate the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs on and near national forest lands in the Montana overthrust belt. Geologic and geophysical studies conducted to date indicate that larger structural features containing greater reserves may be present further to the west under forest lands studies in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation [RARE II] process. Leasing and exploration access to these lands should be continued and encouraged.

Given the time available, that concludes my statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sundquist follows:]

TESTIMONY OF SOHIO PETROLEUM COMPANY BEFORE THE RARE II WILDERNESS HEARING

SEN. MELCHER, MEMBERS OF THE PANEL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A FEW BRIEF COMMENTS BEFORE YOU TODAY. MY NAME IS JAMES SUNDQUIST AND I AM A PROFESSIONAL GEOPHYSICIST AND OVERTHRUST PROJECT LEADER FOR SOHIO PETROLEUM COMPANY'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION BASED IN DENVER. OUR COMPANY IS THE WHOLLY-OWNED EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION SUBSIDIARY OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY (OHIO).

SOHIO PETROLEUM IS A RELATIVE NEWCOMER TO OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION. AS A LATE ENTRANT, WE ARE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS ON THOSE AREAS OFFERING THE BEST POTENTIAL FOR NEAR-TERM DISCOVERIES OF MAJOR HYDROCARBON RESERVES.

MANY OF THE NATIONAL FOREST LANDS UNDER DISCUSSION THIS WEEK LIE WITHIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVERTHRUST BELT, A GEOLOGIC PROVINCE WITH ALL THE ATTRIBUTES NECESSARY FOR LARGE ACCUMULATIONS OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS. OIL INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE OVERTHRUST BELT PROBABLY CONTAINS A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE REMAINING UNDISCOVERED ONSHORE RECOVERABLE RESERVES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE OVERTHRUST IS THEREFORE AN AREA OF HEAVY EXPLORATION EMPHASIS FOR SOHIO.

THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED PROLIFIC PRODUCTION AND PROVEN RESERVES ON THE OVERTHRUST TO THE NORTH IN CANADA AND TO THE SOUTH IN WYOMING AND UTAH. THESE SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF EXTENSIVE SEISMIC SURVEYS AND A SUSTAINED HIGH LEVEL OF EXPLORATION DRILLING ACTIVITY. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS WORK, THE INDUSTRY HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WITH MINIMAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS. I WOULD ALSO MENTION THAT SOHIO, THE COMPANY I WORK FOR, HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTALLY PRESERVING AREAS WHERE WE OPERATE. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD IN ALASKA WHERE WE WERE THE MAJOR FORCE BEHIND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 800 MILE LONG TRANS-ALASKAN PIPELINE AND AT PRUDHOE BAY ON ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE WHERE WE ARE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THIS COUNTRY'S LARGEST OIL FIELD.

SO FAR, THE MONTANA PORTION OF THE OVERTHRUST HAS NOT BEEN AS INTENSIVELY EXPLORED AS THE MAJOR PRODUCING TRENDS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH. COMPLEX GEOLOGY, DIFFICULT ACCESS, REMOTENESS FROM MARKETS AND UNFAVORABLE ECONOMICS HAVE ALL BEEN NEGATIVE FACTORS LIMITING EXPLORATION IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, INCREASED DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC HYDROCARBON RESERVES AND IMPROVED ECONOMICS HAVE NOW COMBINED TO MAKE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE MONTANA OVERTHRUST NOT ONLY FEASIBLE, BUT ESSENTIAL, TO FULLY EVALUATE THE NATION'S ENERGY RESOURCE BASE.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT BLACKLEAF CANYON AND TWO MEDICINE CREEK DEMONSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF HYDROCARBON RESERVOIRS ON AND NEAR NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN THE MONTANA OVERTHRUST BELT. GEOLOGIC AND GEOPHYSICAL STUDIES CONDUCTED TO DATE INDICATE THAT LARGER STRUCTURAL FEATURES CONTAINING GREATER RESERVES MAY BE PRESENT FURTHER TO THE WEST UNDER FOREST LANDS STUDIES IN THE ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION (RARE II) PROCESS. LEASING AND EXPLORATION ACCESS TO THESE LANDS SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND ENCOURAGED.

WE RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST AREAS AS WILDERNESS. IN THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE THAT SUFFICIENT LANDS ARE CURRENTLY DESIGNATED IN THE EXISTING CONTIGUOUS GREAT BEAR, BOB MARSHALL, AND SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS AREAS. FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THESE WILDERNESSES FROM ADJOINING RARE II INVENTORY LANDS ARE NEITHER NECESSARY NOR DESIREABLE. SPECIFICALLY, THE DEEP CREEK FURTHER PLANNING AREA SHOULD REMAIN OPEN FOR OIL AND GAS LEASING AND EXPLORATION. SIMILARLY, THE SEVERAL FORMER BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS BORDERING LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST SHOULD ALSO BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS SOHIO'S OPINION THAT THE RARE II PROCESS IN MONTANA HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT THOROUGHLY AND RESPONSIBLY. MOST OF THE LEWIS & CLARK AND HELENA NATIONAL FOREST LANDS WE CONSIDER PROSPECTIVE FOR OIL AND GAS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS, MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT. WE CONCUR WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND URGE THEIR RATIFICATION BY THE CONGRESS THROUGH APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION, SO THAT EXPLORATION CAN PROCEED IN A TIMELY AND COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

EVEN IN THESE ECONOMICALLY TRYING TIMES THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IS WILLING TO MAKE EXPENDITURES TO EXPLORE PROMISING AREAS AND TO DO SO WITHOUT SUBSTANTIALLY DISTURBING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE AVERAGE OIL RESERVES OF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ARE CONTINUING TO DECLINE. NATURAL GAS, ALTHOUGH NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY CURRENTLY, COULD BECOME SO. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE REMOVING PROMISING AREAS FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION. TO DO SO COULD CUT FUTURE STATE TAX REVENUES, FURTHER IMPACT THE WORKFORCE OF THE MONTANA OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, AND ADDITIONALLY, DAMAGE THE COUNTRY'S LONG RANGE GOAL OF INCREASED ENERGY SELF SUFFICIENCY.

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Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Russ Gates.

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL M. GATES, LINCOLN DISTRICT LAND MANAGER, CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORP.

Mr. GATES. Senator, my name is Russ Gates, I am the district land manager for Champion's Lincoln District, headquartered in Lincoln, Mont.

We commend you for holding these hearings to address the wilderness issue in Montana. The issue has gone on too long and it is time to equitably resolve it. These hearings could provide the push needed to get this time-consuming, resource-wasting issue behind us. The California court decision has caused a terrible waste of time and effort and money for everyone. It would be in Montana's best interest if the issues involved could be resolved without too much further delay.

Champion International Corp. manages 683,000 acres of timberlands in western Montana and operates a total of 5 mills and plants located in Silver City, Bonner, Missoula, Frenchtown, and Conner, Mont. Our mills and plants are a major source of employment in Montana. they employed 2,278 people in 1982 and have an annual payroll of over $58,000,000. These numbers do not include the large number of workers who directly support the running of these mills and whose jobs are dependent on the operation of these mills, but who are not on Champion's payroll.

Our Montana facilities use 275 million board feet of timber annually. This is in the form of logs. In addition, Champion purchases chips, sawdust, and hogfuel from other mills for use in Champion's 1,900-ton-per-day pulpmill at Frenchtown.

Historically, 60 percent of the timber for Champion's mills has come from company lands. We have been cutting our old, slow-growing stands and replacing them with new faster growing trees which we will need in the future. It takes time for trees to grow to sawtimber size, and we will reach a period in the growing cycle in the next decade when we will be seeking additional supplies from lands other than Champion's. At that time we anticipate supplying 40 percent of our wood needs from our own lands and will have to buy 60 percent from other sources. Thus, the issue of how much land is tied up in wilderness or wilderness dispute is of concern to our company.

Fortunately, Montana is a Big state blessed with ample resources and there can be lands dedicated for both wilderness and nonwilderness use. National forests in Montana contain 64.7 billion board feet of timber and have an annual growth of at least 1.5 billion board feet.

Champion has an interest in the timber sale programs for most of the national forests in Montana. From the Lolo, the Helena, the Bitterroot and the Beaverhead, timber goes directly to our mills. Timber from forests such as the Gallatin and the Custer goes to mills of other companies; but Champion buys their waste material which becomes a raw material for the pulp mill at Frenchtown. Thus, Champion is very much interested in maintaining adequate timber programs in all national forests in Montana.

As we address the wilderness stalemate, the first priority is to pass sufficiency and release language. The areas designated by the Forest Service in the RARE II process for nonwilderness use must be made available for that purpose.

We would like to offer the committee our recommendations on which lands should be reserved for wilderness use and which should be used for nonwilderness. Three appendices providing the forest products industry's specific recommendations have been included with our statements. In the first appendix we list RARE II areas on the Helena and Lewis and Clark Forests for which our recommendation is nonwilderness. The second appendix lists those RARE II areas on all Montana national forests for which our recommendation are nowilderness. We recognize wilderness is in many cases the highest and best use. Therefore, we included in the third appendix the forest products consensus on which lands on all Montana national forests shall be reserved for wilderness classification.

Prompt resolution of the wilderness issue in Montana is important to Champion and we stand willing to assist this committee in reaching a final solution. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our views.

[Attachments to Mr. Gates' prepared statement follow:]

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APPENDIX I
CHAMPION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LOLO FOREST NONWILDERNESS
RARE II AREAS

AREA NAME	NF	AREA I.D.	ACRES	CHAMPION AGREES WITH FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FOLLOWING RARE II AREAS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)
Bear Marshall	L&C L&C L&C	A1485 E1485 N1485	234,025 1,732 1,751	1. Parcels contain land classified as suitable for timber management and sustained timber production 2. A large portion is classified as unsuitable for timber production at present thus precluding it from further development 3. A small portion is classified as visually sensitive, suitable for timber production with a visual quality objective	7.4 .6 .0
Bear Marshall	Helena	A1485	54,700	1. The area contains lands suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production	1.3
Lincoln Gulch	Helena	1601	10,500	1. This area contains lands suitable for timber production on a sustained yield and also areas that require vegetation manipulation to improve wildlife habitat	.1
Anaconda Hill	Helena	1602	19,800	1. A large portion of this area is unsuitable for timber production at present thus precluding it from further development	.0
Specimen Creek	Helena	1603	17,500	1. The area contains land suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustaining timber production	.5
Crater Mountain	Helena	1604	9,200	1. The majority of the area is suitable for timber management for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production 2. The second important classification is big game winter range with timber harvest employed to improve or maintain big game winter range	.1

AREA NAME	NF	AREA I.D.	ACRES	CHAMPION AGREES WITH FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE FOLLOWING RARE II AREAS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)
Ogden Mountain	Helena	1605	14,000	1. The majority of the area is suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production 2. A portion of the area is important big game winter range with timber harvest employed to improve or maintain big game winter range	.6
Nevada Mt.	Helena	1606	58,200	1. This parcel contains land suitable for timber production on a sustained yield and also areas that require vegetation manipulation to improve wildlife habitat	.0
Jericho Mountain	Helena	1607	11,200	1. This area is suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production	.7
Lazyman Gulch	Helena	1608	12,700	1. This area is suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production	.2
Electric Peak	Helena	1609	37,000	1. The majority of the area is suitable for optimizing timber growing potential and sustained timber production	.4

APPENDIX II

CHAMPION'S RARE II NONWILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF MONTANA

AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)	NET ACRES
BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST			
A1001	North Big Hole	1.4	31,278
A1013	Middle Mountain-Tobacco Roots	1.1	63,173
A1943	West Big Hole	1.9	56,008
A1945	Italian Peak	.0	27,140
B1013	Middle Mountain-Tobacco Roots	.2	2,000
I1943	West Big Hole	2.2	53,375
BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST			
A1BAA	Selway Bitterroot	2.6	68,000
A1001	North Big Hole	.1	3,800
A1941	Blue Joint Mtn.	1.2	61,400
L1BAD	Stony Mountain	1.8	49,800
L1YAG	Allan Mountain	4.2	111,200
M1845	Meadow Creek	2.6	12,600
O1061	Blodgett Canyon	.0	9,600
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST			
O1363	Red Lodge Creek Hellroaring	.7	28,280
O1366	Fishtail Saddleback Mtn.	.7	20,360
O1370	Cook Mountain	.1	11,700
O1371	North Absaroka	.3	19,240
DEER LODGE NATIONAL FOREST			
A1425	North Carp	.5	5,820
A1620	Bullock Hill	.2	11,180
A1807	Quigg	1.1	15,360
B1013	Middle Mountain - Tobacco Roots	1.1	34,640
B1425	North Carp	.2	2,480
O1421	Sapphires	2.5	56,515
O1424	Silver King	3.4	44,970
O1426	Upper East Fork	.2	7,750
O1428	Flint Range	2.5	52,220
J1549	Madison	.8	29,626
N1549	Madison	1.2	47,417
O1006	West Pioneer	4.7	147,992
O1008	East Pioneer	3.4	93,859
O1014	Potosi	.7	9,200
O1961	Garfield Mountain	.6	36,990
O1962	Mt. Jefferson	.1	4,600
S1549	Madison South	1.1	42,959
O1062	North Fork Lost Horse	.0	7,800
O1063	Trapper Creek	.0	2,500
O1064	Nelson Lake	.0	2,900
O1065	Swift Creek	.1	700
O1066	Needle Creek	.1	1,100
O1421	Sapphires	2.5	42,300
S1BAA	Selway Btr. Canyons	.1	12,700
O1372	King Mountain	.1	11,700
O1373	Tongue River Breaks	.0	16,600
O1911	Line Creek Plateau	.2	20,680
O1912	Beartooth	.0	1.180
O1913	Rock Creek	.0	400
O1429	Dolus Lake	.1	9,100
O1430	Basin Creek	.4	9,170
O1431	Highlands	.5	20,300
O1432	O'Neil Creek	.2	7,500
O1433	Whitetail	3.2	52,500
O1434	Haystack	1.4	25,040
O1435	Fred Burr	.2	6,660
O1609	Electric Peak	.7	18,550
O1808	Stony Mountain	1.4	24,400

APPENDIX II
CHAMPION'S RARE II NONWILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF MONTANA
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AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)	NET ACRES	AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)	NET ACRES
FLATHEAD NATIONAL FORSET							
A1485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	5.8	176,479	01503	Mission Addition 4	.1	640
L1FAA	Swan River Island	.0	550	01504	Mission Addition 5	.0	150
S1485	Swan	3.3	70,400	01505	Mission Addition 6	.0	80
01481	Mount Hefty	1.5	13,700	01506	Mission Addition 7	.0	300
01482	Tuchuck	.5	18,600	01507	Le Beau	.0	5,407
01483	Thompson Seton	.7	23,000	01508	East Shore	.7	5,190
01500	Mission Addition 1	.1	960	01509	Grubb	1.1	7,500
01501	Mission Addition 2	.0	360	01510	Griffin	.7	5,420
01502	Mission Addition 3	.1	640	01511	Tally	1.0	6,700
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST							
E1549	Madison	2.9	105,760	01543	Bridger	1.0	32,700
G1548	Gallatin Divide	2.4	81,582	01547	Chico Peak	.2	11,700
H1548	Hyalite	.3	22,268	01550	Dry Canyon	.3	3,080
J1548	Gallatin Fringe	2.2	44,150	01742	Box Canyon	.0	1,700
N1549	Madison	1.4	32,640	01912	Beartooth	.0	4,480
01371	North Absaroka	2.3	117,880	R1549	Madison	.8	32,640
01541	Crazy Mountain	.3	71,040	S1549	Madison South	.6	34,600
HELENA NATIONAL FOREST							
A1485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	1.3	54,700	01606	Nevada Mountain	.0	58,200
A1610	Holter	.0	1,800	01607	Jericho Mountain	.7	11,200
A1620	Bullock Hill	1.3	48,800	01608	Lazyman Gulch	.2	12,700
E1620	Casey Peak	.6	25,000	01609	Electric Peak	.4	37,000
F1485	Silver King-Falls Creek	.0	6,300	01611	Devil's Tower	.0	8,900
01601	Lincoln Gulch	.1	10,500	01612	Middleman Mountain	.5	27,000
01602	Anaconda Hill	.0	18,600	01616	Camas Creek	.3	38,700
01603	Specimen Creek	.5	17,500	01617	Mount Baldy	.1	15,800
01604	Crater Mountain	.1	9,200	01618	Grassy Mountain	.1	5,400
01605	Odgen Mountain	.6	14,000	01619	Ellis Canyon	.2	8,800
				W1610	Big Log	.0	10,000

APPENDIX II
CHAMPION'S RARE II NONWILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF MONTANA
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AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)	NET ACRES
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST			
A1662	Scotchman Peaks	2.4	27,644
A1664	Trout Creek	.3	8,117
A1670	Cabinet Face West	.0	2,750
A1676	McKay Creek	.4	4,375
A1681	Cabinet Face East (West)	.3	710
B1664	Trout Creek	1.5	24,523
B1676	McKay Creek	.4	7,301
L1LAQ	McGregor Thompson	.6	5,000
01141	Maple Peak	.0	889
01482	Tuchuck	.0	2,280
01483	Thompson Seton	.2	5,700
01509	Grubb	.0	3,600
01661	Buckhorn Ridge	.2	2,934
01663	Northwest Peak	.7	8,780
01665	Cataract	.4	18,136
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST			
A1485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	7.4	234,025
A1726	Toms-Wagner	.1	8,920
A1739	Greenpole Canyon	.2	6,280
B1726	Tenderfoot	.7	32,040
B1739	Half Moon	.2	5,360
C1726	South Tenderfoot	.0	380
D1726	Tenderfoot-Deep Creek	1.3	53,260
E1485	South Fork Willow Creek	.6	1,732
F1485	Silver King Falls Creek	3.2	32,000
H1485	Reservoir North	.0	1,520
N1485	Reservoir-South	.0	1,751
01541	Crazy Mountains	.1	16,600
01721	Sawtooth	1.8	15,500
01727	Pilgrim Creek	1.2	49,500
01666	Mount Henry	2.9	21,000
01667	Grizzly Peak	.8	5,854
01668	Gold Hill	1.1	17,282
01671	Cabinet Face East	.2	17,965
01672	Berray Mountain	.5	8,232
01673	Government Mountain	.9	8,611
01674	Lone Cliff Smeade	1.7	14,240
01675	McNeeley	.9	8,848
01677	Galena Creek	.8	14,928
01678	East Fork Elk Creek	.9	6,423
01683	Ten Lakes	2.3	33,885
01684	Roderick	2.3	1,560
01784	Cube-Iron	.0	391
P1485	Deep Creek	(not given)	26,068
01728	Paine Gulch	.2	8,500
01729	Sawmill Creek	.3	12,800
01730	Twin Mountain	1.2	8,200
01731	Big Baldy	1.2	44,000
01732	Granite Mountain	.3	11,300
01733	Tollgate-Sheep	.6	29,200
01734	Middle Fork Judith	4.9	91,000
01735	Mount High	.4	32,300
01737	Highwood-Baldy	.2	15,600
01738	Highwoods	.4	24,100
01740	Bluff Mountain	.6	37,600
01741	Spring Creek	.5	21,400
01742	Box Canyon	.1	12,500
01743	Castle Mountains	1.0	30,800
01744	North Fork of Smith	.2	8,800

APPENDIX II
CHAMPION'S RARE II NONWILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF MONTANA
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AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	POTENTIAL YIELD SAWTIMBER (MMBF)	NET ACRES
LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST			
01745	Calf Creek	.4	12,500
01746	Eagle Park	.2	6,300
S1739	Snowies	3.2	109,960
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST			
A1485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	1.1	14,596
A1807	Quigg	1.3	30,050
C1799	Sheep Mountain State Line	2.9	40,500
C1805	Mill Creek	.4	1,840
E1301	Clearwater Crossing	1.5	14,003
D1301	Schley Mountain	.4	12,600
L1LAQ	McGregor Thompson	6.8	54,000
Q1805	Lolo Creek	.9	13,060
01142	Stevens Peak	.0	600
01146	Roland Point	.0	700
01152	Wonderful	.0	1,600
01302	Meadow Creek-Upper North	.1	7,200
01424	Silver King	1.4	13,100
01665	Cataract	.6	9,900
01781	Marshall Peak	.4	9,400
01784	Cube-Iron	1.3	23,900
01785	Sundance Ridge	.7	9,100
01790	Mount Bushnell	2.2	18,900
01791	Cherry Peak	1.9	23,600
01792	Gilt Edge Silver Creek	1.0	11,200
01794	Patrick's Knob - North Cutoff	2.6	24,200
01795	South Siegel - South Cutoff	2.0	17,600
01796	North Siegel	.4	10,000
01798	Marble Point	1.6	15,000
01800	Stark Mountain	1.1	10,400
01801	Rattesnake	2.5	27,800
01803	Burdette	1.2	15,400
01806	Welcome Creek	.0	1,100
01808	Stony Mountain	1.6	33,120
01809	Garden Point	.8	6,500
Q1485	Clearwater-Monture	6.7	66,945
Z1485	Dunham Point	1.8	18,360
T1485	Leavitt Creek	.0	2,400
W1485	Packbridge	.0	3,255
W1485	Renshaw	2.1	25,649

kjg-JB2
7/7/83

APPENDIX III
CHAMPION'S RARE II WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF MONTANA

AREA I.D.	AREA NAME	FOREST INDUSTRY WILDERNESS (ACRES)
1-1001	North Big Hole	6,532
1-945	Italian Peak	12,996
1-362	Lost Water Canyon	9,800
1-427	Storm Lake	9,700
1-807	Quigg	29,500
1-963	Lionhead	20,620
1-545	Republic Mountain	700
1-914	Reef	2,200
1-610	Big Log	10,000
1-485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	97,224
1-662	Scotchman Peak	36,727
1-671	Cabinet Face West	6,866
1-681	Cainet Face East (West)	376
1-682	Chippewa Creek	1,037
1-301	Hoodoo	27,600

kjg-JB2
7/7/83

Senator MELCHER. Randall Weeks.

STATEMENT OF RANDALL L. WEEKS

Mr. WEEKS. Senator Melcher, Montana congressional delegation, I appreciate this opportunity to make this statement. My name is Randall L. Weeks, I am the owner of a Federal oil and gas lease that I drew on a simultaneous drawing. The lease is located in Glacier County in the Badger Two Medicine area. It does not abut any wilderness areas and it is not included in the lands proposed as wilderness area. Under alternative W, moreover, it is considered to be a multiple-use area under the proposed forest plan.

My position is that the area covered by my lease and the surrounding lands are in effect nonwilderness and should be released to multiple-use activities. In that regard, I feel there are five separate categories that I have seen in my visits to the lease that underscore the miltiple-use concept and should apply there. One, oil and gas exploration. Most of the land is not only presently under lease, but it has been leased over the years. Extensive seismic work is in process there now, and there has been seismic work in the past. The land is within the overthrust belt, which many believe contains some of the largest and more economically producible gas reserves that remain in the United States. For instance, in 1981, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated as much as 28.6 trillion feet of gas and 2 billion barrels of oil in the nondisturbed district of Montana. Another category is grazing and timber resources. The area has been cattle grazing for many years. In addition, I'm told that stand timber ranges from all the way processing down to fence posts. A third category, the radio relay facility, it is in operation on Mount Baldy located near the center of my leased area. A fourth category of course is the recreational uses. These include big game hunting, fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, trail biking, horseback riding, and into the area west of my lease I am told that snowmobiling and cross-country skiing occur and there is a downhill ski facility being considered. Of course, there is forest management at Palookaville and that's a fifth category.

This seems to be an area that is used largely as a base for many of the multiple uses.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Weeks follows:]

WRITTEN STATEMENT

OF

RANDALL L. WEEKS

ON THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AREA
AND THE LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

PRESENTED AT

THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA JULY 9, 1983

Address:

2600 Colorado National Building
Denver, Colorado 80202

Telephone:

(303) 892-9400

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR MELCHER AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

My name is Randall L. Weeks. I am pleased to have the opportunity to present to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water and the members of the Montana Congressional Delegations my comments on the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and the Lewis & Clark National Forest as follows:

Description of Interest: Federal Oil and Gas Lease in the Rocky Mountain Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

On June 1, 1982, a federal oil and gas lease was issued to me encompassing 7,640 acres in Glacier County, Montana, at the Pallokaville site on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The lease covers most of Sections 25 through 36, Township 30 North, Range 12 West. See Location Plat, Exhibit A. Of course, my interest extends beyond just the property interest represented by my lease to my larger intangible personal interest in the oil and gas resources in the Montana Overthrust Belt, as well as the energy potential of the United States as a whole.

Statement of General Position.

By letter dated November 26, 1982, I submitted my comments on the Proposed Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan to the Forest Service. See Comment Letter, Exhibit B. Those comments continue to reflect my position largely in support of the Proposed Forest Plan and its management under increasingly improved multiple use concepts with respect to nonwilderness

lands and the wilderness planning regarding the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. Additional comments on my position are set forth below.

Favorable Potential for Hydrocarbons.

I and many others believe that certain lands in Montana within the Overthrust Belt very likely contain some of the largest and most economically producible gas reserves that remain in the United States. For instance, the northern disturbed belt of Montana has been recognized to contain "a structural and stratigraphic history similar to that in the Alberta disturbed belt which contains major reserves of gas . . . ." See Summary to "An Evaluation of the Proposed Great Bear Wilderness Area, Flathead, Teton, and Pondera Counties, Montana," by Melville R. Mudge, Robert L. Earhart, and George E. Claypool (U.S. Geological Survey, Open-file report 77-773). See also Chapter D entitled "Petroleum Evaluation of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and study areas," by Melville R. Mudge, Dudley D. Rice, Robert L. Earhart, and George E. Claypool, constituting part of a study entitled "Mineral Resources of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Study Areas, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Pondera, Flathead, Lake, Missoula, and Powell Counties, Montana" (U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines, Open-file report 78-295, particularly Figure 19 on page 129).

U.S. Geological Survey (1981) estimates as much as 20.6 T C F (trillion cubic feet) of gas and as much as 2 billion barrels of oil remaining undiscovered in the northern disturbed belt of Montana.[1/]

The extremely high number of thrust faults and folds along the Rocky Mountain Front are in a structural setting in fields in northwest Montana and Alberta that produce large quantities of gas and some oil. These structures are vividly illustrated by U.S. Geological Survey Map entitled "Bedrock Geologic Map of Part of the Northern Disturbed Belt, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Pondera, Glacier, Flathead, Cascade, and Powell Counties, Montana" by Melville R. Mudge and Robert L. Earhart (1983, U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Map I-1375). See also Open file report 82-1030 entitled "Geologic Map of the

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1/ See Appendix C, pp. 76 and 77, Geological Survey Circular 860, Department of the Interior, entitled "Estimates of Undiscovered Recoverable Conventional Resources of Oil and Gas in the United States," by G. L. Dolton, K. H. Carlson, R. R. Charpentier, A. B. Coury, R. A. Crovelli, S. E. Frezon, A. S. Khan, J. H. Lister, R. H. McMullin, R. S. Pike, R. B. Powers, E. W. Scott and K. L. Varnes; this publication makes the following estimates of undiscovered recoverable oil and gas in the Montana disturbed belt:

Crude oil (billion barrels)				Associated-dissolved gas (trillion cubic feet)				Non-associated gas (trillion cubic feet)			
Low F_{95}	High F_5	Mean	S.D.	Low F_{95}	High F_5	Mean	S.D.	Low F_{95}	High F_5	Mean	S.D.
				* * *							
0	2.0	.6	.9	0	4.4	1.3	1.9	1.8	20.6	8.0	6.8
				* * *							

Mitten Lake, Half Dome Crag, Hyde Creek, East Glacier Park, Big Rock, and Magee Ranch Quadrangles, Pondera and Glacier Counties, Montana" by M. R. Mudge, R. L. Earhart, W. J. Perry, Jr. and R. G. Bohannon; and Map 1-1300, Miscellaneous Investigation Services, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Atlas Series, MA 3-A, entitled "Geologic and Structure Map of the Choteau 1° x 2° Quadrangle, Western Montana" by Melville R. Mudge, Robert L. Earhart, James W. Whipple, and Jack E. Harrison (1982).

Moreover, major producers have conducted, and are presently conducting, seismic operations on my lease and nearby lands and have acquired leaseholds on virtually the entire area surrounding my lease within the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Consequently, every indication exists that the lands surrounding my lease contain significant hydrocarbon potential.

Comments on Position.

The lands covered by my lease have long been managed by the U.S. Forest Service under a multiple use--maximum sustainable yield regime. Studies and environmental reviews had been undertaken to inventory National Forest resources, certain areas of environmental sensitivity had been designated to receive enhanced management treatment, and other areas had been determined to be available for timber, livestock, mineral or recreational uses. After pursuing this systematic approach, the U.S. Forest Service exercised its discretionary

authority and approved issuance by my lease subject to imposition of a host of stipulations calculated to protect the environment. See Lease Stipulations, Exhibit C.

These management initiatives have continued since that time. The U.S. Forest Service has completed the wilderness inventory studies mandated by the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is near completion of the Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Based on these analyses and other available information, the U.S. Forest Service has concluded (i) that no area within several miles of my lease should be recommended for wilderness designation, and (ii) that oil and gas development is one of the highest and best uses for the area within which my lease is situated. In short, the U.S. Forest Service has found that multiple use management is particularly suited for the area and can be utilized to permit development while simultaneously insuring protection of the environment. I am aware of no information that tends to refute these conclusions or the studies upon which they are based.

I and many others similarly situated have acted in reliance on this longstanding position of the U.S. Forest Service. My selection of the nonwilderness lands now under lease reflected that reliance. In this connection, I have paid to the United States rentals exceeding $15,000 to maintain the lease. It would be grossly unfair for the federal government, on the one hand, to issue federal oil and gas leases covering its nonwilderness lands and require the

payment of annual rentals to keep them alive -- all the while realizing that their development requires the expenditure of substantial amounts for consultants, studies and the like -- and then later, on the other hand, impede that development by designating those lands as wilderness areas or wilderness study areas.

I am also firmly convinced from personal observation that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are providing the expertise and innovations which make multiple use concepts truly viable for nonwilderness lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. For instance, during my recent visits to my lease and the surrounding lands on the Lewis and Clark National Forest, I have found that the area is dedicated to the following multiple uses (consisting mostly of non-wilderness activities) which typify the uses, or potential uses, available to the public on nonwilderness lands elsewhere in the Forest:

> 1. Oil and gas exploration. Much of the land is not only covered by oil and gas leases now, but it has been leased for many years. Humble Oil Co. (now Exxon Company USA) was a previous lessee of the land covered by my lease, as well as much of the surrounding land.
>
> Extensive seismic work is in process on behalf of ARCO. I am told not only that the seismic techniques and equipment being employed are the current "state of the art" for technical and environmental protective purposes, but that the grid planning of the seismic lines has been extremely good for purposes of identifying potential oil and gas fields. Seismic work by other major oil and gas producers is planned for the area in an orderly, staged process sched-

uled by the Forest Service. Numerous seismic surveys have also been conducted in the area in the past.

Some test wells have actually been drilled in the immediate area. For example, Phillips Petroleum Company drilled two test wells on Section 35 of land covered by my lease approximately 20 years ago. Although both wells were plugged, one showed traces of hydrocarbon, and the wells continue to provide valuable information for the seismic work now under way and contemplated for the future. Limited roads were completed to the well sites and for seismic purposes. These roads are now used for a variety of purposes.

2. Grazing and timber resources. One of the most prominent current uses of these lands is seasonal livestock grazing available to local sheep and cattle ranchers. Open, rich "short grass" pastures appear to be well suited for this purpose. Limited roads and fences also appear to facilitate this use.

I am told that this area also has stands of timber available as a resource for uses ranging from sizeable lumber processing operations to fence posts.

3. Radio relay facility. A radio relay facility is in operation on top of Mt. Baldy in my lease. This facility is served by a service road and electrical utility line.

4. Recreational uses. Big game hunting and fishing are available to the public in this area. It is also accessible for picnicing, camping, hiking, trail biking and horseback riding. I am told that some snowmobiling and cross-country skiing occurs in the area to the west of my lease. I am also aware of consideration being given to a downhill ski facility in the area.

5. Forest management. Palookaville is the Forest Service's remount station that is used as the Service's personnel assembly area for that part of the Lewis

27-608 O - 84 - 40

and Clark National Forest. At the same time, this particular area also serves as a base camp and staging point for seismic work and many of the uses mentioned above.

These various uses are orchestrated under the watchful eye of the U.S. Forest Service. There is plenty of room for one to be pursued without encroaching upon another unduly under the current management practices. It is significant that, according to materials which I received at the hearing in Missoula, Montana, on July 5, 1983, the land covered by my lease and the surrounding area are not proposed as a wilderness area or wilderness study area by such groups as the Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana Chapter, Sierra Club in connection with "Alternative W".

Further withdrawal of nonwilderness public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest -- particularly where this is high hydrocarbon potential -- does not appear to be in the overall best public interest.2/ As stated by John M. Parker,

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2/ Although I generally support the Proposed Forest Plan, I must, in facing up to reality and subduing my fanciful illusions (a difficult task, indeed, in this magnificent part of the country), express some concerns with any more withdrawal of any more public lands from availability for the development of natural resources where the potential for that development is good. My reservations include such things as the wilderness proposals for the Renshaw Mountain and the Silver King - Falls Creek Areas (RM-]] of the Proposed Forest Plan). This is my rationale:

It would be unwise for me to ignore the fact that the public will eventually need these natural resources. At the same time, the government agencies charged with the management of our public lands, as well as the representatives of industry bearing the responsibility of developing these resources, are doing a superb job, particularly with the development of techniques that protect the environment. These people are, themselves, a valuable resource. They should be utilized as (cont.)

President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in the May, 1983, edition of the Association's monthly publication, the AAPG Explorer, in an article entitled "Environmental Common Sense Urged by President of AAPG", at page 4:

> "Oil, gas and mineral recovery have always required use of the land during the production period. But the amount of land used is very small, and the land need not be permanently altered. The truly wild and spectacular wilderness areas are rarely prospects for oil and gas. Only very small portions of the total wilderness lands will produce valuable resources. The temporary alterations we make are nothing compared to those made by ski and recreation areas whose parking lots and sewage disposal systems are built in our national forests and parks.
>
> "Some people ask, 'Why don't geologists go somewhere else and explore?' or 'Why don't you go somewhere else to develop this oil or gas field?' If we kept going somewhere else, oil and gas in this country would be so expensive, there would be no domestic production. Our search consists of ever-narrowing areas. The discovery of a large field provides oil and gas economically because there are lower costs in developing the field. It is economic disaster not to develop what we know is there -- and to insist that geologists search somewhere else."

2/ (cont.)

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such. We should not tie their hands by withdrawing natural resources until the need is upon us -- and then ask them to perform miracles. I keep reminding myself that the need can be on us with little forewarning. Recent shortages and wars have demonstrated that. Instead, these people should be supported to chart an organized, steady course where experience, progressive innovations and continuing dedication for accomplishing balanced programs can be calmly pursued -- and yet be revenue producing in the process. Otherwise, the risk is that, in the frenzy to develop those natural resources when the need is here, that need may ultimately destroy the very environment that the withdrawals were intended to protect.

Request for Leave to Submit Supplemental Statement.

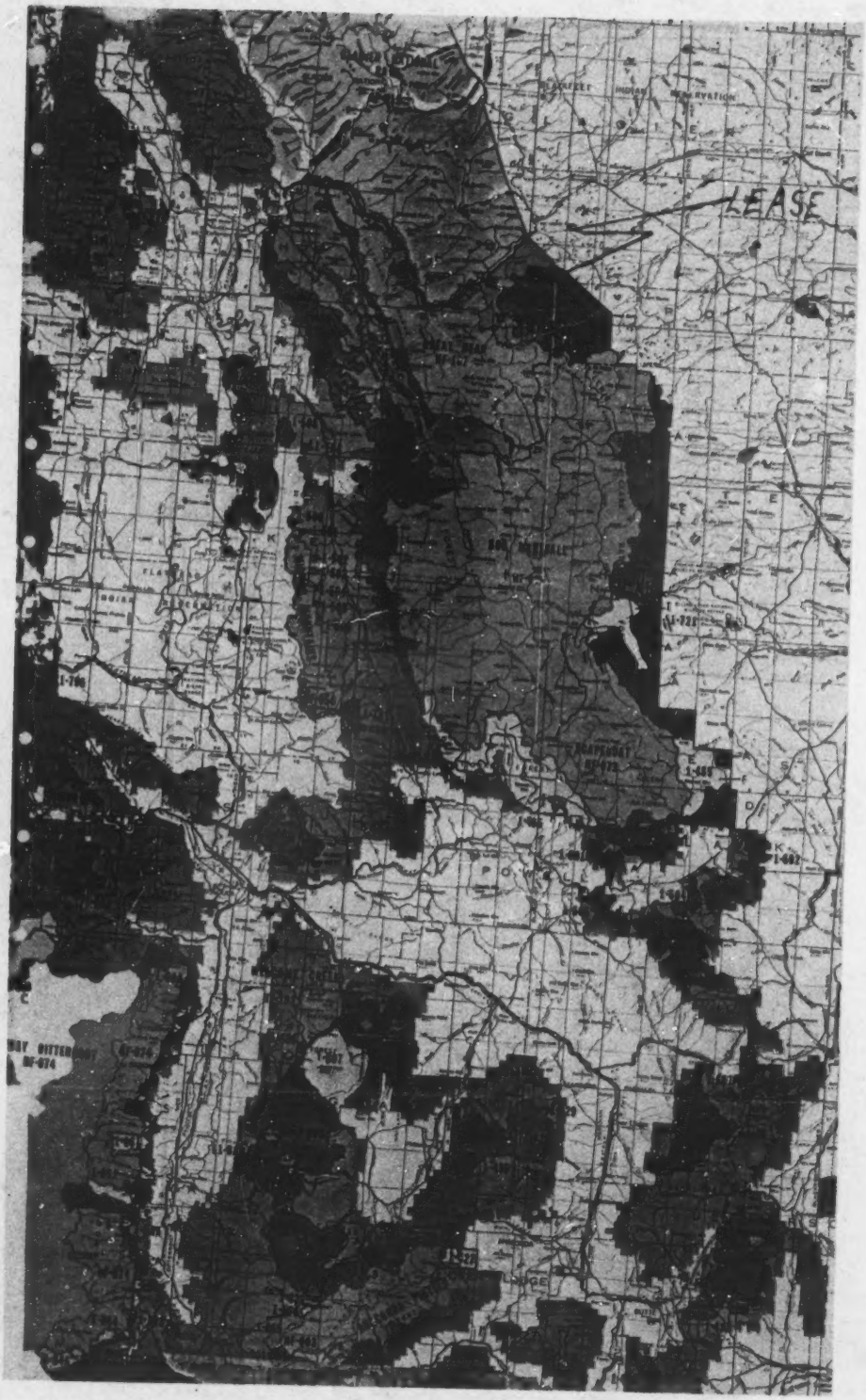
I am respectfully requesting leave to submit a supplemental statement containing information and material germane to the matters under consideration at this hearing within an appropriate time frame.

Conclusion.

The U.S. Forest Service has determined, on the basis of a series of studies, that the area surrounding my lease as well as many nonwilderness areas in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, should not be designated as wilderness. Those areas have the potential of containing significant oil and gas reserves that could be produced in the near future. The present multiple use management regime permits balanced use of those lands in a manner that insures protection of the environment. No basis has been presented indicating why the conclusions of the Forest Service should be overturned or why this significant oil and gas prospect should be forever locked up. I submit that the area surrounding my lease should remain nonwilderness and that oil and gas development that has already begun be permitted to continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall L. Weeks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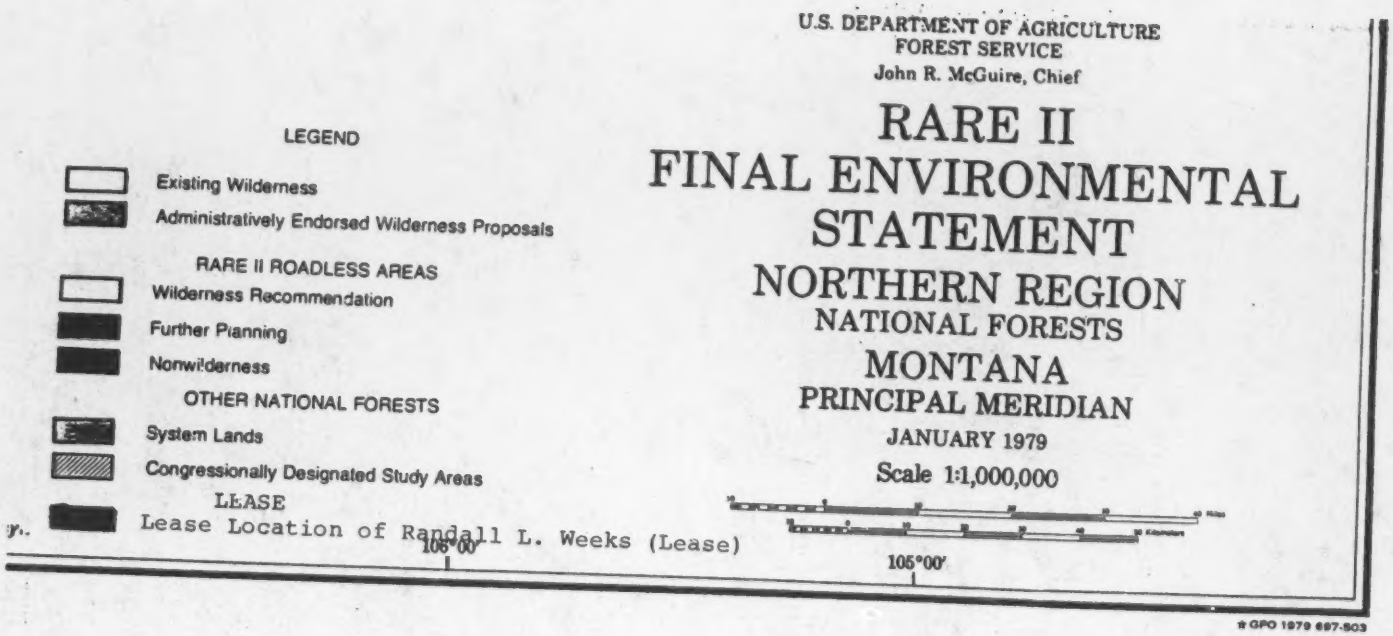

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
John R. McGuire, Chief

RARE II FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

NORTHERN REGION
NATIONAL FORESTS

MONTANA
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

JANUARY 1979

Scale 1:1,000,000

★ GPO 1979 697-503

EROO COLORADO NATIONAL BUILDING
950 SEVENTEENTH STREET
DENVER COLORADO 80202

November 26, 1982

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Lewis and Clark National Forest
P. O. Box 871
Great Falls, Montana 59403

Re: Comments on the Proposed Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan

Gentlemen:

I am the holder of a federal noncompetitive public domain oil and gas lease in the Rocky Mountain Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The purpose of this letter is to provide my comments regarding the Proposed Forest Plan. Planning for the Forest is important to me not only because of my lease, but also because of my deep interest in game management, recreation activities in the forest setting and similar values which the national forests in this country afford.

When I first learned that public comment on the Proposed Forest Plan was invited, I was apprehensive to do so for fear that I would be viewed as an intruder into an area to where so much had already been contributed by people far more knowledgeable than I. However, after being encouraged to formulate my ideas in writing by some of the personnel of the agencies engaged in the Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife Monitoring/ Evaluation Program, I believe that the following comments are appropriate. They are based upon my examination of the Proposed Forest Plan, the accompanying draft environmental impact statement and discussions with respected natural resource experts. My comments are the following:

1. By way of general observations, the Proposed Forest Plan obviously represents the product of a great deal of thought, experience, insight, wisdom and just plain hard work. It is definitely directed toward capturing the spirit of the federal statutory framework within which it must operate. Moreover, it reflects the keen interest and genuine dedication which I have encountered in all of my contacts with the courteous personnel representing the various agencies involved. Obviously the Proposed Forest Plan is the product of a fine complementary mix of thinkers and doers.

2. I firmly believe that the Proposed Forest Plan should espouse a clear-cut philosophy calling for its administration in a manner which will achieve

(a) a fair and reasonable balancing of the various forest resources and activities, so that (i) any one does not unnecessarily obstruct, impair or destroy any other, and (ii) any one or more (such as grazing and timbering) are not preferred over any other (such as oil and gas activity), thereby enabling the concept of multiple use, mandated by federal law, to be truly effective and meaningful,

(b) maximum efficiency in meeting the expressed objectives of the Proposed Forest Plan expeditiously and in a businesslike way, and

(c) the avoidance of arbitrary application of the guidelines and standards under the Proposed Forest Plan.

Although these goals of balancing, efficiency and avoidance of arbitrariness are implicit from the general thrust of the Proposed Forest Plan, perhaps they should be expressed with greater emphasis. For example, these points should be

incorporated into the Long Range Goals on page 4-2 of the Proposed Forest Plan or the Objectives on page 4-3.

3. These goals should be implemented throughout the Proposed Forest Plan. With reference to seismic work and oil and gas exploration and development, reasonable flexibiity and latitude should be emphasized to achieve our National goals of enhanced energy production while simultaneously protecting the environment and satisfying other public values. The following three items reflect concerns which have been raised by persons whose judgment I respect:

(a) Item (3) on page 4-19 of the Forest Management Guidelines -- Minerals G-1 states:

> "Not more than two activities (seismic crews, timber sales, wildcat wells) will operate in one geographic unit on the Rocky Mountain District at the same time."

Of course, there is provision for "special cases where adequate separation can be maintained." However, many of these geographical units involve extremely large areas consisting of several thousands of acres. In reality, several activities probably can be pursued contemporaneously in a particular unit without inflicting significant harm. In keeping with the multiple use and other goals articulated above, this overly rigid management standard should be diluted. The Forest Plan should state affirmatively that the Forest Service will carefully monitor proposed and ongoing activities to ensure that their cumulative effects do not improperly infringe upon other resource values.

(b) Under the Proposed Forest Plan, occupancy of certain lands in the Forest is limited during certain specified months each year for purposes of wildlife protection. This should be tempered with some flexibility. For instance, where circumstances require certain important oil and gas related activities to go beyond a deadline for proper completion -- at least where the work was originally commenced far enough in advance with a reasonable expectatancy of meeting the deadline -- the work should be permitted to continue to completion unless a clear and present danger to wildlife actually exists. I believe that a variety of solutions can be "tailored" to meet the particular situation. The Proposed Forest Plan should specifically address this important issue by stating that the seasonal restrictions are guidelines only and that the Forest Service retains the discretion to permit statutorily mandated activities to be conducted at any time given the imposition of proper mitigation requirements.

(c) The Proposed Forest Plan calls for many restrictions on the surface use of the Forest, such as no occupancy or other activity or limited surface use. In the context of oil and gas activity, those restrictions will have a great impact upon roads, drill pads, pipelines and the like. Obviously, such restrictions will hamper meaningful planning by those engaged in seismic work and pursuing oil and gas exploration and development unless some expression of flexibility and latitude is set forth in the Proposed Forest Plan. For instance, if the restrictions are couched in terms of <u>permitting specially designed facilities</u> (or similar terms), there

would be a clearer indication of the burden which must be met. In addition, innovations for such specially designed facilities should be expressly encouraged by the Proposed Forest Plan. The oil and gas industry has made great technical strides over the past few years, and the Forest Plan should retain sufficient flexibility to permit the use of innovative techniques that allow production without subordinating other resource values.

4. A significant portion of the Proposed Forest Plan is devoted to possible restrictions that may be imposed on oil and gas activities to protect other resource values. See, for instance, pages 4-18 through 4-35. I have been informed that oil and gas activities, when compared with timbering and grazing, have little effect on wildlife and recreation values because of the limited areas impacted and rather slight environmental consequences. For instance, in the Kenai Moose Range National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, large scale oil and gas development has occurred over the past twenty-five years while, at the same time, moose populations have thrived and recreational activities such as canoeing have expanded. I am confident that the Forest Service's professional implementation of a flexible management regime of the sort suggested by these comments can achieve our shared goal of wise, multiple use of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

In conclusion, my focus has been directed toward the Proposed Forest Plan's impact upon oil and gas activity. I believe this to be appropriate because my most direct interest as a Forest Plan participant exists by reason of my oil and gas lease. This does not mean that I will not have an ongoing interest in the other aspects of the Proposed Forest Plan. However, I realize that the comments must end so that you can get on with your important work of finalizing the total Forest Service program. At the same time, I would

appreciate being kept informed of significant developments concerning the Forest Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my comments.

Yours very truly,

Randall Weeks

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 53320
(Serial Number)

OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined to determine if cultural resources are present and to specify mitigation measures. Prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease, the lessee or operator, unless notified to the contrary by the authorized officer of the surface management agency, shall:

1. Engage the services of a qualified cultural resource specialist acceptable to the Federal surface management agency to conduct an intensive inventory for evidence of cultural resource values;

2. Submit a report acceptable to the authorized officer of the surface management agency and the District Engineer, Geological Survey; and

3. Implement mitigation measures required by the surface management agency to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing and salvage or other protective measures. All costs of the inventory and mitigation will be borne by the lessee or operator, and all data and materials salvaged will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government as appropriate.

The lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the District Engineer, Geological Survey, or the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency any cultural or paleontological resources or any other objects of scientific interest discovered as a result of surface operations under this lease, and shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by the District Engineer, Geological Survey.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species, listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the surface management agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the surface management agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the surface management agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

ESTHETICS — To maintain esthetic values, all surface-disturbing activities, semipermanent and permanent facilities may require special design including location, painting and camouflage to blend with the natural surroundings and meet the intent of the visual quality objectives of the Federal surface management agency.

EROSION CONTROL — Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil periods. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

CONTROLLED OR LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION — This stipulation may be modified by special stipulations which are hereto attached or when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual onground conditions. The prospective lessee should contact the Federal surface management agency for more specific locations and information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

The lessee/operator is given notice that the lands within this lease may include special areas and that such areas may contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or may require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Possible special areas are identified below. Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas will be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Use or occupancy will be restricted only when the Geological Survey and/or the surface management agency demonstrates the restriction necessary for the protection of such special areas and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

After the Federal surface management agency has been advised of specific proposed surface use or occupancy on the leased lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the Agency will furnish further data on any special areas which may include:

100 feet from the edge of the rights-of-way from highways, designated county roads and appropriate federally-owned or controlled roads and recreation trails.

500 feet, or when necessary, within the 25-year flood plain from reservoirs, lakes, and ponds and intermittent, ephemeral or small perennial streams; 1,000 feet, or when necessary, within the 100-year flood plain from larger perennial streams, rivers, and domestic water supplies.

500 feet from grouse strutting grounds. Special care to avoid nesting areas associated with strutting grounds will be necessary during the period from March 1 to June 30. One-fourth mile from identified essential habitat of state and federal sensitive species. Crucial wildlife winter ranges during the period from December 1 to May 15, and in elk calving areas, during the period from May 1 to June 30.

300 feet from occupied buildings, developed recreational areas, undeveloped recreational areas receiving concentrated public use and sites eligible for or designated as National Register sites.

Seasonal road closures, roads for special uses, specified roads during heavy traffic periods and on areas having restrictive off-road vehicle designations.

On slopes over 30 percent, or 20 percent on extremely erodable or slumping soils.

Date

Lessee s Signature

541

U. ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTE...OR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 53320

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease (33)

(X) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease:
(a) T.30N., R.12W., P.M.M.
Sec. 27: portions of E½SW¼, W½SW¼, portions of S½SE¼
Sec. 28: portions of S½NE¼, portions of NW¼, E½SW¼, portions of W½SW¼, SE¼
Sec. 29: portions of NE¼, portions of S½NW¼, portions of SW¼, portions of E½SE¼, W½SE¼
(b) Sec. 30: portions of S½NE¼, portions of S½
Sec. 31: portions of W½
Sec. 32: portions of E½, portions of NE¼NW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼
Sec. 33: W½, N½S½, portions of S½S½ CON'T ON NEXT SHEET

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a) Land types 181 and 202 (Slopes greater than 60%)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease ( )

( ) No _____ will be allowed within:
_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lease (57)

(X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~ (protect) elk winter range
occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 12/1

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____
_____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:
(a) T.30N., R.12W., P.M.M.
Sec. 27: W½W½
Sec. 28: All
Sec. 29: All
Sec. 30: All
(b) Sec. 31: All
Sec. 32: All Sec. 33: All
Sec. 34: portions of SW¼NE¼, W½W½, SE¼SW¼, SW¼, portions of SE¼

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease ( )

( ) The _____
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

_____ Date

_____ Signature

WSO 3100.55 (January 1981)

5-12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 53320

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

CON'T FROM PREVIOUS SHEET

(X) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )

(a) Sec. 34: portions of E½NE¼, W½NE¼, NW¼, portions of N½S½, SE¼SE¼
Sec. 35: portions of NW¼SW¼, portions of S½S½
Sec. 36: portions of SW¼SW¼

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a) Land types 181 and 202 (Slopes greater than 60%)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( ) No _____ will be allowed within: ( )
_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lease

(X) (a) In order to ~~(minimize)~~ (protect) Big Game migration routes (4)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 1/15 to 4/15
6/1 to 12/1

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____
_____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.30N., R.12W., P.M.M.
Sec. 29: portions of W½NE¼, portions of E½W½, portions of SW¼
Sec. 30: portions of SE¼SE¼
Sec. 31: portions of E½
(Alt Sec. 32: portions of W½W½

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) The _____ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

_____ Date

_____ Signature

WSO 3100-5A (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

(OG Sim. Serial No.) M 53320 (Serial No.)

LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the Geological Survey and the Federal Surface Management Agency (SMA), for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells. After the SMA has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on those lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the SMA will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

T.30N., R.12W., P.M.M. (12%)

Sec. 25: portions of N½NE¼ less Lot 1, S½N½, portions of N½SE¼
Sec. 26: portions of SE¼NE¼
Sec. 27: portions of N½,
Sec. 28: portions of NE¼, portions of N½NW¼, portions of SW¼NW¼, portions of W½SW
Sec. 29: portions of E½E½, portions of W½NE¼, N½NW¼, portions of S½NW¼
Sec. 30: N½NE¼, portions of S½NE¼, NW¼, portions of N½SW¼, portions of NW¼SE¼
Sec. 31: portions of E½SW¼, portions of W½SE¼
Sec. 32: portions of E½SE¼, portions of SW¼SE¼
Sec. 33: portions of W½SW¼

Reason for Restriction: Landtype 22, 25B, 177, moderate potential for cutslope failure hazard, Appendix D, Environmental Assessment Oil and Gas Leasing Nonwilderness Lands

Duration of Restriction: (designate months)

All year

Prior to acceptance of this stipulation, the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the SMA for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

Date Signature

MSO 3100-60 (October 1980)

514

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 53320
(Serial No.)

ACTIVITY COORDINATION STIPULATION

This stipulation may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey with concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

(X) This lease includes lands within occupied threatened and endangered species habitat, grizzly bear and gray wolf — % of Lease (100)

which has resource values sensitive to high levels of activity. In order to minumize impacts to these resources, special conditions, such as unitization prior to approval of operations, and/or other limitations to spread surface disturbance activities over time and space may be required prior to approval and commencement of any operations on the lease.

Date

Signature

MSO 3100-61 (October 1980)

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
William Jones.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM R. JONES, MEMBER, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY, MONT.

Mr. JONES. Gentlemen, Senator Melcher, I seem to be the only person on this panel or on this whole testimony group that represents local government. Let me tell you this, that it's really a pleasure when local government of the lowest level of government can be here with the highest government, our national Congress.

Teton County is really one of the main contributories to the Bob Marshall area and to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. One hundred and eighteen thousand acres of Teton County has been given to the wilderness, as our contribution to this concept of open air and good times and mountain experiences. This background lets you know a little bit that Teton County is really intimately and intensely interested in the wilderness area, in the Bob Marshall area. In fact, out of the 10 trails, Forest Service trails that lead into the east side of the wilderness area, Teton County serves 10 of them. Actually the way into the wilderness area is through Teton County if you go through the east side. We feel we are intimately connected with and we feel that it's part of our whole being.

Now, the U.S. Forest Service to the east of the Bob Marshall area acts, we think, as a very important buffer strip, must be maintained. When we think about the additional area that might be suggested to be added to the Bob Marshall area, we find out that we are bringing wilderness areas directly connected to the economy of the area, and you really can't have economy and wilderness bumping head-to-head and have either one function as it should. So, we feel that the wilderness area should be buffered by a strip of another type of land, forest land, public land, that's available to everyone and that can be used by the person that doesn't have the strength or health or time to get into the wilderness area. He can use the front area and enjoy the benefits of a mountain front area.

County commissioners are charged with the responsibility of providing services such as law enforcement, schools, county records, roads and bridges, governmental buildings, welfare, public health, and others. These are things that the local government has to do, that you have asked us to do on a Federal level. You said do these things and we will appreciate your effort. So that we do know that local government does have this important responsibility, we would ask that local government maintain the tax base as is. Therefore, let's keep the Bob Marshall within its present boundaries and within its present concept.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Jones follows:]

TETON COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

CHOTEAU

59422

July 7th, 1983

TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

GENTLEMEN:

The Board of County Comissioners of Teton County, Montana feel that the present boundaries and management practices pretaining to the Bob Marshall Wilderness are sufficient, and that changes to either are not in the best interests of the citizens of Teton County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Teton County, Montana

Erich E. Keiper

Erich E. Keiper, Chairman

William R. Jones

William R. Jones, Member

Scott Langold

Scott Langold, Member

TETON COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

CHOTEAU

59422

July 8th, 1983

TO THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am County Commissioner Wm. R. Jones, Teton County, Montana. Teton County is intensely and intimately concerned with the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Teton County Commissioners hold the position of maintaining the Wilderness in the present status. Over 1/3 of the Bob Marshall lies within Teton County; to be exact 118,464 acres are within the County and represents over half of the National Forest lying within Teton County. Ten Forest Service Trails lead into the Bob Marshall through Teton County. In fact, the Eastern Gateway to Bob Marshall is Teton County.

This background lets you know that we as County Commissioners and as representatives of the citizens of the County do have a genuine interest in the immediate well being and in the future of Bob Marshall Wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service to the east of the Bob Marshall acts as a buffer between the wilderness and the economic base of Teton County. While the forest area has relatively minimal economic value to the agricultural endeavor of the County it does act as a staging area for the recreational activity which heads into Bob Marshall. We believe this zone benefits the private sector of Teton County as well as the wilderness. This area of the Rocky Mountain

Front is also very important as a recreation area in its own right. To enter and use the Bob Marshall is a major undertaking requiring considerable time, stamina, and money. To put restrictions similar to those in force on wilderness areas on major portions of the Mountain Front would eliminate the joy of a mountain experience for those who have neither the time, the money, nor the constitution with which to partake of the wilderness.

County Commissioners are charged with the responsibility of providing services such as law enforcement, schools, county records, roads and bridges, governmental buildings, welfare, public health, and others. In order to fund these many needed functions the County revenue sources are strained. The wilderness produces Negligible revenue to the County and occupies over 118,000 acres. We must ask, "How much must we give?" "Isn't enough enough?" The potential of the remaining forest area is important. We need it!!!

The "primitive" concept in forest management really provides the best of two worlds ----- even tho the non-wilderness area may not have as many restrictions, it is none the less carefully used and will be an assett to the concept of multiple use.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I urge you to maintain the magnificent Bob Marshall Wilderness in its present un-equaled state of beauty and climax and to keep it within its present confines.

Thank you for your kind attention to me and to this concept.

Wm. R. Jones, Commissioner
Teton County, Montana

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Kenneth Perry, I think it's Mrs. Perry.

STATEMENT OF MRS. KENNETH L. PERRY, UTICA, MONT.

Mrs. PERRY. Senator Melcher, members of the delegation, my name is Mrs. Kenneth Perry of Utica, Mont. My husband and I are permittees on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. My husband serves on the advisory council for grazing for that same area. I'm speaking for the South Fork, Lost Fork, and Middle Fork of the Judith River.

My grandfather came to the area in 1889 at which time he purchased a ranch from Jake Hoover on the South Fork. My father was raised on the ranch and still lives there. I was raised there and our ranching interests are in the same area. All these years we have seen countless people enjoy the use of the area. I would like to point out some things I think are important for all to know in the decision process of RARE II.

First I would like to mention natural resources, which has been covered, but I would like to mention that it provides the opportunity to work, and the use of those dictates the amount of revenues in our area. Dr. Maxine Johnson, at the University of Montana, says a potential decrease in payrolls to the amount of $97.14 million annually is possible if RARE II is implemented.

There are things detrimental in wilderness areas such as noxious weeds and disease in the wildlife. These could be causing a fallout on the ranch and other interests in the same area. We have already seen that in the elk and sheep herds in some areas.

Also, do people really realize what wilderness means, do they realize it means no mechanical mechanisms of any kind going into the area, no Coleman stoves, lanterns, and so on, and only a select few would be able to use this area. I think that forms a type of discrimination in some points.

Now, for some positive thoughts. The present system seems to and has been working all these years. Multiple management has kept things operating to the benefit of everyone. I know not every one of the users is happy, but it has been pretty well balanced. I have lived in the mountains on my father's place in very hot July, and I could look about 3 miles to the southwest over only one ridge and see the blue hot smoke boiling up, and at night reaching up through the trees; it's terrifying. The wilderness in this instance, if it was next to our ranch, would be the way to treat it, would be allow it to burn and wait until the wind changes or the rain or snow put the fires out. Both game and livestock would all pay the price.

There is an area near us that 100 years ago burned naturally, and the damage can still be seen, because the new growth still hasn't covered it.

In summary, I would like to recommend the area not be included for designated wilderness. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Perry follows:]

STATEMENT OF MRS. KENNETH L. PERRY
before the
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS HEARING
July 9,.1983 Great Falls,. Mt.

REGARDING: RARE II WILDERNESS

My name is Mrs. Kenneth Perry of Utica, Montana. My husband and I are permittees on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. My husband serves on the Advisory Council for grazing for that same area. I'm speaking for the South Fork,. Lost Fork and Middle Fork of the Judith River.

My Grandfather came to the area in 1889 at which time he purchased a ranch from Jake Hoover on the South Fork. My father was raised on the ranch and still lives there. I was raised there and our ranching interests are in the same area. All these years we have seen countless people enjoy the use of the area. I would like to point out some things I think are important for all to know in the decision process of RARE II.

I. Natural resources provide the opportunity to work and the use of these dictates the amount of industries, revenue and jobs.

Grazing and mineral leases, timber sales, jobs from loggers to paper mills,. employment with Forest Service, BLM, CETA type employment would cease and regular personell would be cut. Dr. Maxine Johnson, UM, says a potential decrease in payrolls to the amount of 97.14 million dollars annually is possible if RARE II is implemented. Loss of minerals would make us more dependant once more on the foreign producers of oil and gas.

II. How would detrimental effects such as noxious weeds,.

Mistletoe in the timber, infectious and fatal diseases in wildlife be treated or curtailed if left to run "Nature's" course? Complete timbered areas could be lost to insects and populations of wildlife lost to diseases. Wilderness areas, ranches etc.

would be harassed by "fall-out" from these things. We've already seen this in the elk and sheep herds in some areas.

III. Do people really know what "Wilderness" really means?

Do they realize it means no radios, chain-saws, snowmobiles, motor-cycles, Coleman stoves and lanterns, no campgrounds with water pumps and tiolets. These facts also make one realize that a sly form of discrimination is present here. Only a select few such as the young, unencumbered and frankly, well to do would have access because of the time involved to reach the interior, the gear required to supply the necessities, and also to carry out all the food, equipment and garbage that was taken in. Older people, unhealthy people, poorer people simply would not have the ability to do these things. Aren't they the people that need the recreation as badly as the rest? If discrimination can be made against some classes now, How long before action could be taken against the rest by some "far away" interests wanting to serve themselves?

IV. Incases of injury or illness, Heart attacks, skiing, Grizzly bear problems, what would hatpen miles from an ambulance. There are no para-medics, no telephones, no search and rescue, only nature's slow and sure heal or die are the answers here.

NOW FOR SOME MORE POSSITIVE THOUGHTS.

I. The present system seems to and has been working all these years. Multiple management has kept things operating to the benefit of everyone I know. Not all things please all users, but overall it has been balanced. Plenty of game for hunting, increasing is probably more accurate, camping and recreation is at an all time high, grazing is continuing with plenty of forage.

Forest Service and BLM plans are followed and renewed or replaced as problems occur. Road use is handled with openings and closures as areas need rotating and use.

I have lived in the mountains on my father's place when in a very hot and dry July in the '3o's I could look about three miles southwest, over one ridge and see the blue, hot smoke boiling up, and at night see the flames reaching up through the trees. It was terrifying!!! I was small and I knew my Dad with his horses applying about 300 fire-fighters would stop that fire. I'm not so sure they knew it though. In 1971 I remember frantically helping move our cattle from summer areas because it seemed 600 or more men couldn't stop it. How would any property owner, rancher, ski-resort, guest rancher, hunting lodges, camping areas protect themselves against a fire from a wilderness area? The "WILDERNESS" way would be to allow the burning in the way until the wind changed or rain or snow put it out. People, game, livestock would all pay the price. There is an area in our summer allotment that burned over 100 years ago and the damage can be seen because the new growth is too small to hide it.

In summary I would recommend the area should not be included for designated wilderness for these reasons:

1. Previous use of this area makes it unsuitable as a wilderness. It is too small, has no real "pristine" areas and with several private holdings within the main area. Roads are throughout the area and would be very hard to close off, creating problems with Wilderness enforcement. How many and how much could be provided to insure regulations were enforced? Or would the same story of the law-abiding person being denied access and the law-breaker running rampant?

2. Wilderness is necessary to some extent, but as with all good things it can be over-done. A look at a map of Montana shows we have our share presently. There are now Five million acres of "SINGLE" use land now, with 594,331 recommended. More than our share when you consider the loss of revenue this will cause and consequently raise taxes on landowners and machinery to make up the difference.

3. I think six years of responding to hearings ect. is enough. There has been too much lost time and money, to say nothing of the inconvenience, to people in the concerned areas. No more studies are needed,.no more tax monies spent. People need to get on with their work and their lives. Decisions by congress should be made immediately with no more delays!

Thank you for your coming to the hearing and your consideration.

Mrs. Kenneth L. Perry
Utica, Mt.
59452

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Mrs. Perry.
Ben Rummerfield.

STATEMENT OF BEN RUMMERFIELD, JR., VICE PRESIDENT, GEODATA CORP.

Mr. RUMMERFIELD. Gentlemen, I am Ben Rummerfield, Jr., vice president of GeoData Corp. in Denver, Colo.

GeoData Corp. is a seismic data brokerage and acquisition firm. Our purpose is to broker seismic data transactions between oil exploration firms and to acquire and manage seismic data acquisition in the field. As a corporation with business interests and activities within western Montana, we believe it is in our and the public's interest to present our views on the present level and consequences of oil exploration within the present areas of concern.

GeoData has, since 1981, acquired and managed approximately 1,000 miles of seismic data utilizing a dynamite energy source along the eastern front of the Sawtooth Mountain Range and Lewis and Clark National Forest and approximately 112 miles of seismic data utilizing a dynamite and Vibroseis energy source. Other oil firms have been active in exploration along Montana's eastern mountain front since the early 1960's. Similar to the older logging, mining, and hunting practices over the last century, operational procedures for oil exploration have changed dramatically over the last decade as required by environmental concerns and as feasible by new technological advances. For instance, as the Federal Agricultural Department has reevaluated clear-cutting logging practices, developed new and better seedlings, or restructured fire control, as new machinery and practices in mining engineering have positively transformed mineral exploration, as fish and game departments have reinstituted wildlife hunting codes and ethics, the oil industry has redefined their explorational practices in the field. All these things have been done for the betterment of the environment as our time now dictates while still allowing public and private people and concerns to enjoy the benefits of our established public lands. No one is an enemy here. We are all partners. We are all concerned. The oil industry is today operating within these public lands for the benefit of the public as well as ourselves. As our products benefit the public, the public benefits us by the purchase of products which allows us to survive.

Exploration firms must pay permit fees to private citizens and Federal agencies for the right to explore across private and public lands. Grocery stores, motels, ranching, farming, many other facets of the local economy benefit from the oil industry's activities within States, counties, and municipalities. Should present public-use lands be reestablished as wilderness, not only would oil exploration be noticeably curtailed, but local economics could be negatively affected. Ranchers with time-honored grazing rights on Forest Service public-use lands would have stock reduced and feed bills increased, private and public selective log cutting would diminish, easily accessible recreational areas would be restricted to

public use and emphasize elite use. These and other negative reactions to local inhabitants and areas of Montana cannot be discounted should new wilderness areas be designated.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rummerfield follows:]

GEODATA
CORPORATION

BEN F. RUMMERFIELD
PRESIDENT
CHARLES E. MENUHIN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

1625 BROADWAY
SUITE 1310
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

TELEPHONE
(303) 572-9419
TELEX
45-3384

July 8, 1983

Gentlemen:

I am Ben Rummerfield, Jr., Vice President of GeoData Corporation in Denver, Colorado.

I. GeoData Corporation is a seismic data brokerage and acquisition firm. Our purpose is to broker seismic data transactions between oil exploration firms and to acquire and manage seismic data acquisition in the field. As a corporation with business interests and activities within western Montana, we believe it is in our and the public's interest to present our views on the present level and consequences of oil exploration within the present areas of concern.

II. GeoData has, since 1981, acquired and managed approximately 1,000 miles of seismic data utilizing a dynamite energy source along the eastern front of the Sawtooth Mountain Range and Lewis and Clark National Forest and approximately 112 miles of seismic data utilizing a dynamite and Vibroseis energy source. Other oil firms have been active in exploration along Montana's eastern mountain front since the early 1960's. Similar to the older logging, mining, and hunting practices over the last century, operational procedures for oil exploration have changed dramatically over the last decade as required by environmental concerns and as feasible by new technological advances. For instance, as the Federal Agricultural Department has re-evaluated clear cutting logging practices, developed new and better seedlings, or restructured fire control, as new machinery and practices in mining engineering have positively transformed mineral exploration, as fish and game departments have re-instituted wildlife hunting codes and ethics, the

oil industry has redefined their explorational practices in the field. All these things have been done for the betterment of the environment as our time now dictates while still allowing public and private people and concerns to enjoy the benefits of our established public lands. No one is an enemy here. We are all partners. We are all concerned. The oil industry is today operating within these public lands for the benefit of the public as well as ourselves. As our products benefit the public, the public benefits us by the purchase of products which allows us to survive.

III. GeoData as well as all the oil industry works on the local level. Exploration firms must pay permit fees to private citizens and federal agencies for the right to explore across private and public lands. Grocery stores, motels, cafes, and all facets of local economics benefit from the oil industry's activities within states, counties, and municipalities. Should present public use lands be re-established as wilderness, not only would oil exploration be noticeably curtailed, but local economics could be negatively affected. Ranchers with time honored grazing rights on Forest Service public use lands would have stock reduced and feed bills increased, private and public selective log cutting would diminish easily accessible recreational areas would be restricted to public use and emphasize "elite" use, wildlife buffer zones between present wildlife habitat and human habitat would diminish and possibly endanger lives. Negative reactions to local inhabitants and areas of Montana cannot be discounted should new wilderness areas be designated.

IV. GeoData believes that the Forest Service and ranger districts are presently doing an extremely professional job in their assigned duties in land, wildlife, and recreational management. These federal offices exist for the public benefit and professionally review and guide oil exploration within the lands in concern. A mutual respect between this public sector and private

sector has been generated. At the Forest Services' request, GeoData and its representatives have used helicopters then in use for oil exploration for rescuing injured or lost hunters. These helicopters under private use may also be drafted for fire fighting service as needed.

V. Finally, GeoData believes that the lands in concern should not be designated wilderness as these lands have long established road systems and improved public campgrounds. In other words, the lands proposed for wilderness already have long standing improvements which are expressly forbidden in wilderness areas.

VI. In conclusion, we submit that inclusion of further non-wilderness in western Montana into a wilderness framework should be denied as 1) oil exploration and other public/private use has not nor will not degrade the environment under present operation and management standards, 2) local economics and local citizens will be compromised if the status of these lands be converted to wilderness, 3) the Department of Agriculture through its field representatives are presently administering the non-wilderness lands in a professional and beneficial management, and, 4) non-wilderness lands have been improved over a long term as to automatically exclude these lands from wilderness designation.

Respectfully submitted,

GEODATA CORPORATION

BFRummerfield Jr

Ben F. Rummerfield, Jr.
Representative

BFR,JR:sh

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Ed Regan.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD W. REGAN, WOODS MANAGER, SPRING CREEK FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.

Mr. REGAN. Gentlemen, good morning, and thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Ed Regan, I'm a professional forester currently employed as the woods manager for Spring Creek Forest Products of Judith Gap. Today I'm speaking in behalf of myself and my employer.

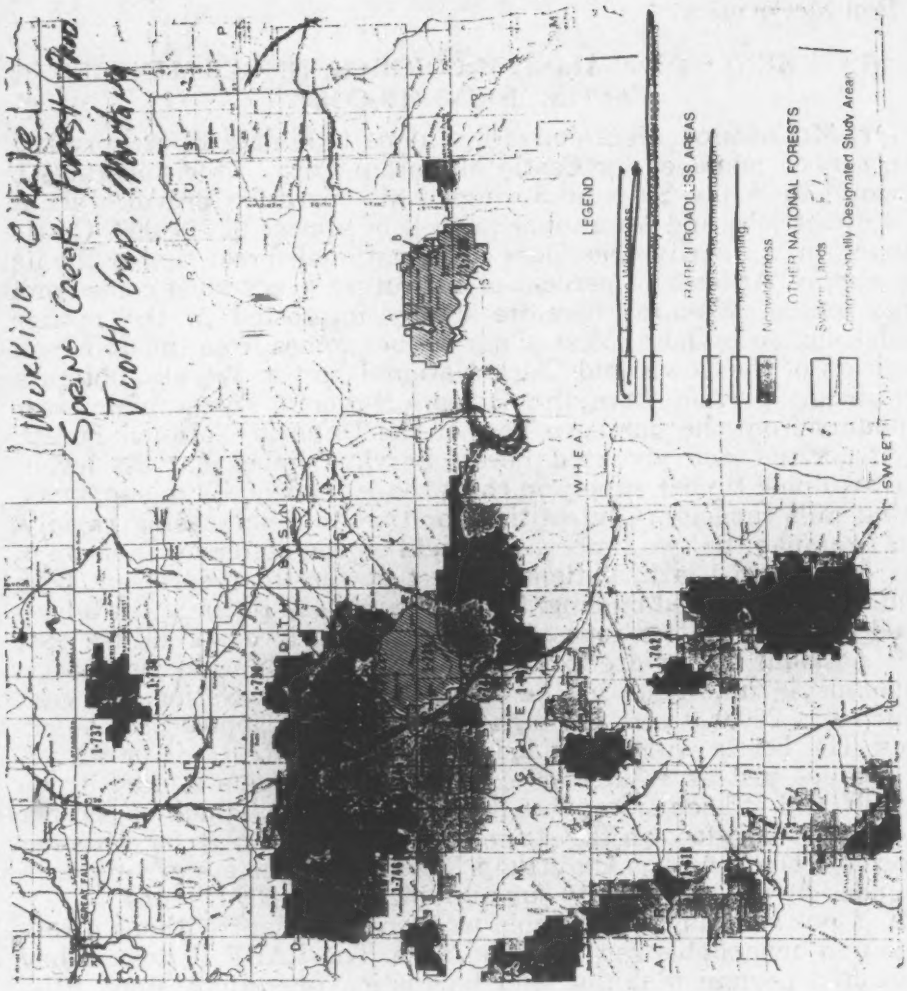
Spring Creek is a major employer in the three counties of Judith Basin, Fergus, and especially Wheatland. I believe only the Department of Interior and the State highway department have more employees. Approximately 70 people are working full time in our sawmill and timber operations. The potential to create more jobs, through expansion, cannot be attained until the uncertainty of local timber supplies have been resolved.

The working circle from which our mill must extract raw materials is close to 90 percent public ownership. A map detailing this breakdown is attached to my testimony. The area within our sphere includes the North Little Belts, Middle Fork of the Judith, Big Snowys, and the Little Snowys. Between RARE II and S. 393 areas the available commercial forest lands have all but disappeared. A recently purchased timber sale in the Dry Wolf drainage is presently in limbo. Besides this particular sale, many future timber sales, which were scheduled under the forest planning process, occur in RARE II areas.

Previously the development of forest management programs and sales in the North Little Belts have been slow moving. The reason for this snail's pace was the lack of adequate local markets. Today, however, this situation has changed because products from these areas can be readily marketed in either Judith Gap or Lewistown.

I'm convinced the time for action on RARE II is now. This committee has the support of our company for your efforts to obtain RARE II sufficiency language. We also hope you will take the next big step and include all wilderness study areas in an omnibus wilderness bill for Montana. The speedy resolution of the wilderness issue is vital to this company's survival. Gentlemen, please lose no time on this one. Thank you.

[The map follows:]


Working Circle
Spaine Creek Forest Road
Judith Gap, Montana
LEGEND
Existing Wilderness
RARE II ROADLESS AREAS
Recommended for Planning
Nonwilderness
OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS
System Lands
Congressionally Designated Study Areas
WHEAT
SWEET
BASIN
GREAT FALLS

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Ron McCormick.

STATEMENT OF RONALD F. McCORMICK, TIMBER MANAGER, CASTLE MOUNTAIN CORP.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Gentlemen, my name is Ronald F. McCormick. I'm timber manager for Castle Mountain Corp., which operates a sawmill in White Sulphur Springs. This operation provides about 150 direct jobs and an annual payroll of almost $2,500,000. Castle Mountain is heavily dependent upon national forest timber for its log supply. At least 75 percent of our future needs must come from that source. We are therefore vitally interested in the matter under discussion here. Most of our timber comes from the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. We also obtain a significant portion from the Helena National Forest and lesser amounts from the northern part of the Gallatin National Forest.

At current and proposed Forest Service timber harvest levels, the available timber supply in this area is inadequate to supply existing mill capacity. Competition for timber is increasing rapidly. For example, the two timber sales held on the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest so far this year were both sold, after prolonged bidding, for approximately 10 times the advertised minimum rate. Proposed timber harvest levels on all the east side national forests are extremely low. The mountain pine beetle epidemic is imminent in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which has 250,000 acres of high-risk mature lodgepole pine standards. The beetle will attack lodgepole pine in RARE II or wilderness areas just as readily as elsewhere, and it gets a start it can rapidly and efficiently convert live trees worth as much as $80 per thousand board feet on the stump, to dead trees worth 96 cents per thousand board feet on the stump. These problems are greatly compounded by the uncertainty surrounding the RARE II lands.

It is not economically feasible to operate a plant without a reliable and dependable raw material base. The RARE II process had disrupted normal planning and harvesting operations since 1972. We strongly urge passage of an omnibus wilderness bill to settle this issue once and for all. Such a bill must contain sufficiency and release language to ratify the RARE II procedure and return the lands recommended for nonwilderness to full multiple-use management. It should also address the S. 393 study areas of the Middle Fork Judith and Big Snowys.

Our recommendations for the various RARE II areas are attached. Essentially we support wilderness designation only for area No. 1-610, Big Log, in the Helena National Forest. All other RARE II areas in the Big Belt range of the Helena National Forest and all RARE II areas in the Jefferson of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, should be designated nonwilderness and returned to full multiple-use management.

The S. 393 study areas, Middle Fork Judith and Big Snowys, should also be designated nonwilderness and returned to full multiple-use management. Neither of these areas has any outstanding wilderness characteristics. They do, contain a valuable timber resource. The two areas together contain 777 million board feet of

standing sawtimber, with an approximate value of $56,000,000 at current stumpage rates. This would be a tremendously expensive playground to be reserved for a small minority under either wilderness designation or the semiprimitive recreation classification proposed by the Lewis and Clark National Forest. There is no reason why these areas cannot be harvested without undue harm to other resource values.

We at Castle Mountain Corp. do not believe that the local economy or the Nation can afford to waste such a valuable resource. This concludes my statement. Thank you.

[The prepared statements of Mr. McCormick follow:]

- Douglas Fir
- Engleman Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Ponderosa Pine

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STATEMENT ON

MONTANA RARE II LANDS

Submitted by
Ronald F. McCormick

to

THE PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
JULY 9, 1983

My name is Ronald F. McCormick. I have had 28 years experience as a professional forester in Montana, Idaho and Oregon. I am Timber Manager for Castle Mountain Corporation, which operates a modern dimension sawmill in White Sulphur Springs. Castle Mountain Corporation and its predecessors have operated a sawmill in this location for over 30 years. This operation provides about 150 direct jobs and an annual payroll of almost $2,500,000. We are the primary employer in White Sulphur Springs, which has a population of about 1200 and has been designated a timber dependent community by the U. S. Forest Service.

Castle Mountain Corporation is heavily dependent upon National Forest timber for its log supply. At least 75% of our future needs must come from that source. We are therefore vitally interested in the matter under discussion here. Most of our timber comes from the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. We also obtain a significant portion from the Helena National Forest and lesser amounts from the northern part of the Gallatin National Forest.

At current and proposed Forest Service timber harvest levels, the available timber supply in this area is inadequate to supply existing mill capacity. Competition for timber is increasing rapidly. For example, the two timber sales held on the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest so far this year were both sold, after prolonged bidding, for approximately ten times the advertised minimum rate. These are not isolated or unusual instances, but rather they reflect a developing timber shortage.

Proposed timber harvest levels on all the east side National Forests are extremely low. For example, the Lewis and Clark National Forest has a potential yield of 68 million board feet per year. The timber harvest goal established for the Lewis and Clark under the Forest and Range Renewable Resources Planning Act is 41 million board feet per year. Yet the Lewis and Clark is proposing to havest only 13 million board feet per year, with a gradual increase to 24 million board feet per year over the next 50 years. The Lewis and Clark is proposing to allocate 57% of the available and capable commercial forest lands to non-timber uses, primarily wildlife and recreation.

A mountain pine beetle epidemic is imminent in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which has 250,000 acres of high risk mature lodgepole pine stands. The beetle will attack lodgepole pine in RARE II or wilderness areas just as readily as elsewhere, and once it gets a start it can rapidly and efficiently convert live trees worth as much as $80.00 per thousand board feet on the stump, to dead trees worth $0.96 per thousand board feet on the stump. The only real opportunity to prevent this lies in harvesting these stands at a much faster rate than the Lewis and Clark is proposing. This could be done by increasing the harvest level to the goal established under the Forest and Range Renewable Resources Planning Act.

The above problems are greatly compounded by the uncertainty surrounding the RARE II lands. This is creating problems for both the Forest Service and the forest products industry. A large proportion of current sales involve RARE II areas. Any of these might be appealed before it is sold, in which case the sale would be postponed indefinitely. In addition, the contracts for the sales that are sold contain a clause stating that the contract may be terminated by the Forest Service if an appeal is filed based upon the Ninth Circuit Court decision, even though the purchaser may be already operating the sale. This puts the purchaser in the almost ludicrous situation of attempting to sustain a multi-million dollar operation based upon a raw material supply that can be lost at any time due to circumstances completely beyond the purchasers control. It is past time for this situation to be corrected.

It is not economically feasible to operate a plant without a reliable and dependable raw material base. The RARE II process has disrupted normal planning and harvesting operations since 1972. It is time to resolve the issue. There is no need for further study. We strongly urge passage of an omnibus wilderness bill to settle this issue once and for all. Such a bill must contain sufficiency and release language to ratify the RARE II procedure and return the lands recommended for non-wilderness to full multiple use management. It should also address the S393 study areas - Middle Fork Judith and Big Snowies.

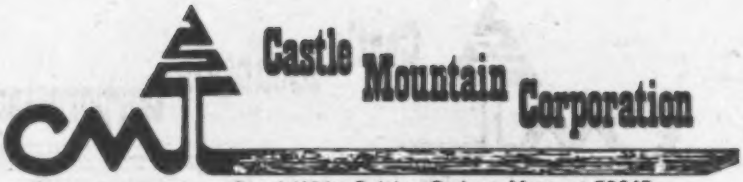
A detailed listing of our recommendations for the various RARE II areas is attached. Essentially, we support wilderness designation only for Area No. 1-610, Big Log, in the Helena National Forest. All other RARE II areas in the Big Belt range of the Helena National Forest, and all RARE II areas in the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, should be designated non-wilderness and returned to full multiple use management.

The S393 study areas, Middle Fork Judith and Big Snowies, should also be designated non-wilderness and returned to full multiple use management. Neither of these areas has any outstanding wilderness characteristics. They do, however, contain a valuable timber resource. The two areas together contain 777 million board feet of standing sawtimber, with an approximate value of $56,000,000 at current stumpage rates. This would be a tremendously expensive playground to be reserved for a small minority under either wilderness designation or the "semi-primitive recreation" classification proposed by the Lewis and Clark National Forest. There is no reason why these areas cannot be harvested without undue harm to other resource values. We at Castle Mountain Corporation do not believe that the local economy or the nation can afford to waste such a valuable resource.

This concludes my statement. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues.

Ronald F. McCormick
Timber Manager

- Douglas Fir
- Engleman Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Ponderosa Pine



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Castle Mountain Corporation supports wilderness designation for the following RARE II area:

Helena National Forest 1-610 Big Log

Castle Mountain Corporation recommends non-wilderness designation and full multiple use management for the following RARE II areas:

Lewis and Clark National Forest -

1-726	Tenderfoot - Deep Creek
1-727	Pilgrim Creek
1-728	Paine Gulch
1-729	Sawmill Creek
1-730	TW Mountain
1-731	Big Baldy
1-732	Granite Mountain
1-733	Tollgate - Sheep
1-734	Middle Fork Judith (S393 Study Area)
1-735	Mount High
1-737	Highwood - Baldy
1-738	Highwood
1-739	Big Snowies (S393 Study Area)
1-740	Bluff Mountain
1-741	Spring Creek
1-742	Box Canyon
1-743	Castle Mountains
1-744	North Fork of Smith
1-745	Calf Creek
1-746	Eagle Park
1-541	Crazy Mountains (Including the portion in the Gallatin N.F.)

Helena National Forest -

1-611	Devils Tower
1-612	Middleman Mountain
1-613	
1-614	
1-615	
1-616	Camas Creek
1-617	Mount Baldy
1-618	Grassy Mountain
1-619	Ellis Canyon

- Douglas Fir
- Engleman Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Ponderosa Pine

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STATEMENT ON

MIDDLE FORK JUDITH

BIG SNOWIES

MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY ACT AREAS

Submitted by
Ronald F. McCormick

Great Falls, Montana
December 7, 1982

My name is Ronald F. McCormick. I am Timber Manager for Castle Mountain Corporation, a modern dimension sawmill. During normal operations we provide about 150 direct jobs and an annual payroll in excess of $2,000,000. We are the primary employer in White Sulphur Springs, a timber dependent community.

Current management proposals of the Lewis and Clark National Forest are badly unbalanced, with a decided overemphasis on wildlife and recreation, at the expense of timber production. Proposed timber harvest levels fall far short of meeting either the RPA goal or the increased demand predicted by the 1978 East Zone Timber Program Analysis. Past sales history of the Jefferson Division is not a valid indicator of future demand, because of the decreasing supply of private timber. In the past, less than 25% of the log supply for Castle Mountain Corporation has come from National Forest lands. However, this percentage is already beginning to increase, and our projections indicate that within 5-10 years we will have to obtain at least 75% of our log supply from National Forest lands. On normal two shift operation our plant will use about 40 MM board feet of logs annually. With at least three other mills regularly purchasing timber from the Jefferson Division, it is obvious that proposed harvest levels are inadequate to supply existing mill capacity. In the interest of community stability and increased return to the U. S. Treasury and local County Governments, the Lewis and Clark National Forest should recognize these facts and increase the timber harvest to a more reasonable level.

These Wilderness Study Areas contain a significant volume of standing sawtimber: 460 MM board feet in the Middle Fork of the Judith and 317 MM board feet in the Big Snowies. At current average stumpage rates of about $36 per M board feet, this represents a total timber value of about $28,000,000.* We do not believe the local economy or the nation can afford to waste such a valuable resource. These two areas together could provide over 7MM board feet per year on a sustained yield basis.

* July 8, 1983. Current stumpage rates are approximately double these figures, thus giving a total timber value of about $56,000,000.

R.F.M.

The Forest Service proposals appear to view wildlife and timber harvest as completely incompatible. No effort has been made to evaluate the beneficial effects of timber harvest, such as increased forage and habitat improvement. Neither is adequate attention given to the potential for mitigating developmental impacts upon wildlife through road management programs. Repeated statements to the effect that timber harvest will decrease security cover make no mention of the fact that cutover areas will regenerate and again provide security cover a few years after harvest.

The influences of insects and fire have not been addressed adequately. For example, Mountain Pine Beetle infestations are expected in the Big Snowies within 5-10 years (M3-19), and natural fuel build-up in the Big Snowies is already so high that, in the words of the Forest Service, "a start could result in a major holocaust" (M2-81). The situation in the Middle Fork of the Judith is about the same. The potential effects of these conditions on all resources should be studied in detail and quantified for all alternatives.

Dispersed recreation opportunity for the Lewis and Clark National Forest already exceeds both the RPA goal for 2030 and the projected use for 2030. There are already 2.8 million acres of classified wilderness within 250 miles of the Middle Fork Judith Study Area. With other resource outputs, such as developed recreation and timber, so far below both RPA goals and projected needs, there is no valid reason to maintain either of these areas in a non-development classification. This is even more apparent when we consider that neither has any outstanding wilderness characteristics and each already has an extensive network of low standard roads.

We question the Present Net Value calculation for the Big Snowies (M2-61). PNV for Alternative 1, the preferred alternative, is —677.7 thousand dollars; PNV for Alternative 3, highest timber production, is 558.1 thousand dollars; PNV for Alternative 7, Wilderness, is 427.7 thousand dollars. With the resource outputs roughly the same for Alternatives 1 and 2, it is not reasonable that they should be so far apart in Present Net Value. Neither is it reasonable that the Present Net Value for Wilderness should be so close to that for Alternative 3 with its much higher resource outputs.

We are opposed to either "wilderness" or "semi-primitive recreation" classification for these Wilderness Study Areas. These lands should be managed under reasonable and balanced multiple-use planning, in order to provide a full range of resource outputs. We recommend Alternative 3 for the Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area. We recommend Alternative 3 for the Middle Fork Judith Wilderness Study Area. For both areas, Alternative 3 has the highest Present Net Value and provides the highest levels of resource outputs. Alternative 3 would provide more benefits for more people than any of the other Alternatives.

This concludes our testimony. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on these Wilderness Study Areas.

- Douglas Fir
- Engleman Spruce
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- Ponderosa Pine

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT ON

MONTANA RARE II LANDS

Submitted by
Ronald F. McCormick

to

THE PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
July 27, 1983

I wish to submit the following information to supplement testimony submitted at the hearing in Great Falls on July 9, 1983.

As stated in my previous testimony, Castle Mountain Corporation operates a modern dimension sawmill in White Sulphur Springs that provides about 150 direct jobs and an annual payroll of almost $2,500,000. Certain of the proposals made by the Montana Wilderness Association constitute a serious threat to our future timber supply. The areas that concern us are discussed below.

1. Proposed Camas/Birch Creek Wilderness - Helena National Forest.

These two areas include some of the closest and best quality timber in Castle Mountain Corporations' operating area. The boundaries as presently drawn include one parcel of private land upon which we currently hold a timber contract, and one parcel of private land that we logged in 1982. Also included are portions of two active Forest Service timber sales and at least one proposed Forest Service sale.

These areas contain significant acreage of commercial forest land. The timber is of good quality, and can be economically harvested. Regeneration is no particular problem. I have examined the clearcuts near Gypsy Lake and elsewhere throughout the area, and in my opinion they are regenerating very well. This entire area should remain in multiple use management.

2. Proposed Crazy Mountains Wilderness - Gallatin National Forest.

The higher elevation of the Crazies contain little or no commercial forest land. However, the surrounding lower elevation land, much of which is included within the proposed boundary, contain significant acreages of commercial forest land and some very high quality timber. The northern portion of the proposed area includes almost 8,000 acres of private land upon which Castle Mountain Corporation currently holds a timber contract. These lands and the intermingled Forest Service lands contain a large acreage of commerical forest land and a large volume of standing saw timber.

We think that this area should continue to be managed under multiple use. The ownership pattern alone makes this the most logical management option. Whatever the outcome, the commercial forest land in the area should remain in the timber base and available for harvest.

3. Proposed Tenderfoot - Deep Creek Wilderness - Lewis and Clark National Forest.

This area lies well within Castle Mountain Corporations' operating area. The Tenderfoot drainage contains a significant acreage of commercial forest land that should remain in the timber base. The timber is average or better quality for this area, and can be economically harvested. Timber harvesting in Tenderfoot Creek would have no impact whatsoever on the scenic qualities of the Smith River Canyon.

This area has no outstanding wilderness characteristics. It should remain in multiple use management.

The areas discussed above are all in Castle Mountain Corporations' normal operating area. The merchantable timber contained within these areas is a critical component of our future timber supply. If the commercial forest land in these areas is withdrawn from the timber base, the continued future operation of this plant will be jeopardized. As you consider these wilderness proposals, I strongly urge you to also consider the needs of Castle Mountain Corporation and the community of White Sulphur Springs.

Ronald F. McCormick

Ronald F. McCormick
Timber Manager

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Michael Hughes.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD T. HUGHES, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ANALYST, CHEVRON, U.S.A., INC.

Mr. HUGHES. Senator Melcher, members of the delegation. My name is Richard T. Hughes. I am employed by Chevron U.S.A., Inc., as a legislative and regulatory analyst in Denver, Colo. Chevron is the domestic oil and gas subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of Calif. and is active in the exploration for and production of oil and gas throughout the United States both onshore and offshore. We are particularly active in the Rocky Mountain area, and a good portion of my time is spent monitoring, analyzing, and advising management on changes in legislation and regulations affecting public lands. Because of our interest in the management of public lands, we welcome this opportuniity to provide our views regarding national forest lands in Montana.

Chevron's position regarding a wilderness bill for Montana includes three basic points: First, we feel Montana already boasts a superb wilderness system and therefore, new designations should be minimal, if any. Nearly 3.2 million acres of land in Montana is currently part of the national wilderness preservation system. Neighboring States of Idaho and Wyoming include 3.8 million acres and 2.2 million acres of land under wilderness designation. That amounts to over 9 million acres in the three-State area. We recognize the need for certain lands to be under special classification to protect their natural character, but we believe a point is reached where the sheer volume of land in such a special classification might indicate that some of the lands are not truly special. We respectfully submit that many of the lands being considered for wilderness designation are so similar to each other and to the lands in Montana already designated as wilderness that they are not likely to add significant diversity to the wilderness system in Montana. It is important to remember that wilderness is an exclusionary designation for public lands which prohibits a variety of legitimate uses such as timber harvest, new grazing allotments, off-road vehicle use and other forms of developed recreation as well as mineral development. In light of the exclusionary nature of the wilderness designation, we urge Congress to closely examine the special character of each parcel being considered for designation, and also the need to add to a wilderness system in Montana which we believe already offers ample opportunity for superlative wilderness experience.

The second point we wish to address and question is the continued review of forest lands for their wilderness suitability. Members of the Montana delegation have expressed their inclination to declare the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental impact statement for Montana. In the wake of the ninth circuit decision in *California* v. *Block* and the ensuing decision of the Forest Service to reevaluate RARE II tracts, we believe that sufficiency is absolutely necessary if we are to proceed with multiple use on nonwilderness lands which in some instances have been tied up in wilderness review for more than a decade. The problem, however, goes beyond RARE II. The National Forest Management

Act requires the continuing review of nonwilderness lands for their wilderness suitability. Depending on the precise wording of sufficiency language, the RARE II study may suffice only as the Forest Service's wilderness review for the first generation of forest plans which are currently underway, but the same lands would be subject to wilderness review each time those plans are revised. We believe these lands have been adequately studied under the RARE II process, and we recommend that any wilderness legislation in Montana should provide for permanent release to multiple use of lands not designated wilderness and a specific prohibition against any further review for wilderness suitability except as authorized by a subsequent act of Congress.

That will conclude my oral statement, I have more for the record. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hughes follows:]

Statement of Richard T. Hughes

representing

CHEVRON U.S.A. INC.

before the

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

United States Senate

regarding

Montana Wilderness Legislation

presented in

Great Falls, Montana

July 9, 1983

My name is Richard T. Hughes. I am employed by Chevron U.S.A. Inc., as a legislative and regulatory analyst in Denver, Colorado. Chevron is the domestic oil and gas subsidiary of Standard Oil Company of California and is active in the exploration for and production of oil and gas throughout the United States both onshore and offshore. We are particularly active in the Rocky Mountain Area, and a good portion of my time is spent monitoring, analyzing, and advising management on changes in legislation and regulations affecting public lands. Because of our interest in the management of public lands, we welcome this opportunity to provide our views regarding national forest lands in Montana.

Chevron's position regarding a wilderness bill for Montana includes three basic points:

First, we feel Montana already boasts a superb wilderness system and therefore, new designations should be minimal, if any. Nearly 3.2 million acres of land in Montana are currently part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Neighboring states of Idaho and Wyoming include 3.8 million acres and 2.2 million acres of lands under wilderness designation. That amounts to over 9 million acres in the three-state area. We recognize the need for certain lands to be under special classification to protect their natural character, but we believe a point is reached where the sheer volume of land in such a special classification might indicate that some of the lands are not truly special. We respectfully submit that many of the lands being considered for wilderness designation are so similar to each other and to the lands in Montana already designated as wilderness that they are not likely to add significant diversity to the wilderness system in Montana. It is important to remember that wilderness is an exclusionary designation for public lands which prohibits a variety of legitimate uses; such as timber harvest, new grazing allotments, off-road vehicle use and other forms of developed recreation as well as

mineral development. In light of the exclusionary nature of the wilderness designation, we urge Congress to closely examine the special character of each parcel being considered for designation, and also the need to add to a wilderness system in Montana which we believe already offers ample opportunity for superlative wilderness experience.

The second point we wish to address, and question, is the continued review of forest lands for their wilderness suitability. Members of the Montana Delegation have expressed their inclination to declare the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental impact statement for Montana. In the wake of the 9th Circuit decision in California v. Block and the ensuing decision of the Forest Service to reevaluate RARE II tracts, we believe that sufficiency language is absolutely necessary if we are to proceed with multiple use on non-wilderness lands which, in some instances, have been tied up in wilderness review for more than a decade. The problem, however, goes beyond RARE II. The National Forest Management Act requires the continuing review of non-wilderness land for their wilderness suitability. Depending on the precise wording of sufficiency language, the RARE II study may suffice only as the Forest Service's wilderness review for the first generation of Forest Plans which are currently underway, but the same lands would be subject to wilderness review each time those plans are revised. We believe these lands have been adequately studied under the RARE II process, and we recommend that any wilderness legislation in Montana should provide for permanent release, to multiple use, of lands not designated wilderness and a specific prohibition against any further review for wilderness suitability, except as authorized by a subsequent Act of Congress.

The third facet of our position on wilderness legislation concerns specific tracts of land we believe should not be designated wilderness because of their significant potential for the discovery of oil and gas. Attached to

my statement submitted for the written record is a geologic summary and a list of RARE II tracts which we believe bear sufficient potential for development of oil and gas to outweigh their value as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The petroleum industry plays an important role in the economy of Montana, and in the security of our Nation. If our industry is to continue to play that role, access to prospective lands in Montana and throughout the United States must be assured so that exploration can proceed and discoveries can be made to fuel our future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our views on upcoming wilderness legislation in Montana.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

The Rocky Mountain Front Area on the east side of the Bob Marshall Complex, including all RARE II areas numbered 1-485, bear significant potential for discovery of oil and gas. The area is within the Overthrust Belt and there is established production in similar geologic settings in Canada and Western Wyoming. This geologic setting was confirmed in closer proximity with the recent discovery of the Blackleaf Field in Township 26 North, Ranges 8 and 9, West.

Geologic studies of the Montana portion of the Thrust Belt indicate the presence of both source and reservoir rocks. While some dry wells have been drilled, they do not rule out the possibility of production similar to that which has been established in southwestern Wyoming. Complex structures and rugged terrain make geologic mapping and evaluation difficult, but ever-improving technology will allow a better understanding of the area in the near future.

In addition to areas on the east side of the Bob Marshall, the areas listed below lie within the Thrust Belt and bear similar potential.

Forest	RARE II Number	Name
Helena	01601	Lincoln Gulch
	01602	Anaconda Hill
	01603	Specimen Creek
	01604	Crater Mountain
	01605	Ogden Mountain
	01606	Nevada Mountain
	01607	Jericho Mountain
	01608	Lazyman Gulch
	01609	Electric Peak
	01610	Big Log
	01611	Devils Tower
	01612	Middleman Mountain
Deer Lodge	01428	Flint Range
	01429	Dolds Lakes
	01435	Fred Burr
Beaverhead	01945	Italian Peak
	01961	Garfield Mountain
Flathead	01481	Mount Hefty
	01482	Tuchuck
	01483	Thompson Seton

Senator MELCHER: Thank you.
Will Brooke.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM M. BROOKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

Mr. BROOKE. For the record, my name is William M. Brooke. I am the executive director of the Montana Public Lands Council, an organization of livestock operators who utilize the public lands for the grazing of sheep and cattle. I'll just briefly summarize my comments, you already have my written comments. We are interested today especially in the Helena National Forest and the Custer National Forest, and we support the Forest Service recommendations for nonwilderness in both of those forests, specifically in the Nevada Mountain in the Helena Forest.

In Nevada Mountain, there is a substantial amount of commercial timber, some of which has already been slated for sale. The commercial use is important to landowners in that area, because they have much private timber on their own lands and need available timber entry in the area in order to market their timber. There are jeep trails as well and mining in the area as well as adjacent to it. The landowners that are along the Nevada Creek have concerns about noxious weeds and the ability to control those. Nevada Mountain is the head of the drainage for Nevada Creek, and we would like the opportunity to be able to control any outbreaks of noxious weeds. Camas Creek, there are four sections of private land within its boundaries as well as some past mining activity. Electric Peak has a road in the northern portion, it's heavily traveled throughout. There is diversified recreation throughout the rest of the area.

The Custer National Forest, we again agree with the Forest Service on the recreational and nonwilderness of the area. As long as grazing association is in that area, we would like the congressional delegation to uphold the Forest Service recommendations, specifically on Cook Mountain and King Mountain, both of those areas are heavily used by livestock. There are already some range developments in there, specifically spring and stock water developments. They would like the opportunity to do more extensive grazing management, and they cannot do that until this is released from nonwilderness. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. That completes this panel.

I'm going to make as part of the record at this point, the written testimony submitted by Terrett Ranch, Julian Terrett, George Badgett, Bias, Fletcher, Shys, and Knoblock down in Ashland District of the Custer National Forest. And we will make part of the record at this point a statement by Rocque Couvillion, I believe, of Florence, Mont.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Brooke and material submitted by Senator Melcher follow:]

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 1679 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

JAMES E. COURTNEY	ALZADA	CHAIRMAN
RUSSELL UMRUH	CHINOOK	VICE CHAIRMAN
MONE L. TENSEN	HELENA	SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM M. BROOKE	HELENA	ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

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WM. E. GARRISON	GLEN
JIM McCANN	HARLEM

Testimony of William M. Brooke
before the Public Lands Subcommittee
on RAREII. Great Falls, Montana
July 9, 1983.

For the record, my name is William M. Brooke. I am executive director of the Montana Public Lands Council, an organization of livestock operators who utilize the Public Lands for the grazing of sheep and cattle. The Council has already registered its opposition to further Wilderness designation in Montana. Today I would like to specifically focus on the Helena and Custer national forests.

The Council supports the Forest Service recommendations of non-wilderness for Holter (A1610), Bear-Marshal-Scapegoat-Swan (A1485), Lincoln Gulch (01601), Anaconda Hill (01602), Specimen creek (01603), Crater Mountain (01604), Ogden Mountain (01605), Jericho Mountain (01607), Lazyman Gulch (01608) Devils Tower (01611) Middleman Mountain ((01612), Mount Baldy (01617), Grassy Mountain(01618) Ellis Canyon (01619).

We specifically support the Forest Service recommendations of non-wilderness for Nevada Mountain, Electric Peak and Camas Creek. Nevada Mountain has commercial timber some of which has already been slated for sale. Many of the ranchers in the area have timber on their private lands which is marketable only if there is a viable timber operation nearby. Nevada Mountain has jeep trails and mining in the area as well as adjacent to it. Nevada Mountain is also the source for Nevada Creek which is used extensively by irrigators. Consequently if an outbreak of noxious weeds occurs in the drainage, alternatives must be available to control those

weeds. A Wilderness designation would preclude any economical or efficient control of weeds.

Camas Creek (01616) has four sections of private land within its boundaries as well as some past mining activity. Electric Peak (01609) has a road in its northern portion and is heavily trailed thoughout the rest of the area. Dispersed recreation occurs actively throughout the year.

The Council supports the Forest Service recommendations for nonwilderness on the Custer National Forest also. Nonwilderness recommendations include Red Lodge Creek, Fishtail, North Absaroka, Line Creek, Beartooth, and Rock Creek. We specifically agree with nonwilderness recommendations for King Mountain and Cook Mountain. Both of these areas are used by livestock operators in the area. Julian Terret, Jay Nance, and the Ashland/Fort Howes Grazing Association have asked me to request this delegation uphold the Forest Service recommendation of nonwilderness for Cook Mountain and King Mountain. Livestock operators in these areas would like the option of continuing to implement intensive grazing management in the area. Already there are stock water developments in both of these areas.

Thank you for your consideration on the above forests.

JULY 9, 1983

LETTER TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS HEARING FROM THE PERMITTEES AFFECTED BY RARE II WILDERNESS.

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED USERS OF THE ASHLAND DIVISION OF THE CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST IN THE AREA THAT IS PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS STUDY STATUS DO NOT BELIEVE IT QUALIFIES AS A WILDERNESS AREA.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 4 WELLS, 6 DEVELOPED SPRINGS WITH STOCK TANKS, 5 SUMPS AND 3 RESERVOIRS IN THE COOK MOUNTAIN HIKING AND RIDING AREA. ONE WELL AND 1 SPRING WERE DEVELOPED RECENTLY, WITH THE REST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN THE C C C DAYS OF THE 1930'S.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 2 WELLS WITH WINDMILLS ON THEM, 11 DEVELOPED SPRINGS, 4 RESERVOIRS AND 2 MILES OF PIPELINE WITH 5 STOCK TANKS, AND SEVERAL MILES OF CROSS-FENCE ON THE KING CREEK HIKING AND RIDING AREA. ALSO IN THIS AREA IS A PIECE OF DEEDED LAND WITH A CORRAL ON IT. THE PIPELINE IS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT, BUT THE REMAINDER OF THE DEVELOPMENTS WERE PUT IN IN THE C C C DAYS.

IN ADDITION TO THE WATER DEVELOPMENTS, BOTH AREAS HAVE OLD TRAILS, OR ROADS, THAT ARE VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF MAN. FOR THESE REASONS, WE FEEL THIS PROPOSED WILDERNESS IS NOT QUALIFIED.

THANK YOU.

Tunstall Ranch
By Julian Tunstall Jr
President
George Badgett
Vernon Bice
Ty Ken Vernon
Ted Hotchkiss
George Shy
Lisa Rae Shy
Jack Knoblock

COUNTY OF ROSEBUD
Office of
COMMISSIONERS
FORSYTH, MONTANA 59327

Henry Stokke, Chairman
Ed McCaffree, Vice Chairman
Malcolm McRae, Member

July 7, 1983

Honorable John D. Melcher
United States Senate
440 Russell Senate Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C.
20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

The Rosebud County Commission supports the concept of multiple use on public lands, therefore we oppose any land in Rosebud County being designated as wilderness.

Sincerely,
Rosebud County Commissioners

Henry H. Stokke

D Malcolm McRae

RCC/jh

Board of County Commissioners
POWDER RIVER COUNTY
P.O. Box J
Broadus, Montana 59317

Phone (406) 436-2857

Alvin Raschkow, Olive
F. F. Huckins, Broadus
Ted Fletcher, Ashland

July 5, 1983

Marian Hanson
Ashland, MT 59003

Dear Marian:

We, the Board of County Commissioners of Powder River County are opposed to any Wilderness Area designations in Powder River County.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Alvin Raschkow
Alvin Raschkow

F. F. Huckins
F. F. Huckins

Ted Fletcher
Ted Fletcher

I appreciate being able to speak to this assembly today. I only wish that I could address the issue a bit more informed. Until now, I've only had a mild interest in the RARE II issue. I recently obtained a report from the Western Environmental Trade Association. This was my first look at facts and figures concerning the issue. The report seems to offer two extremes on a scale. There appears to be an urgent need to designate areas and define boundries so that planning remaining useable forest is not held up any further.

Though I've not spent a great deal of time in wilderness areas, I have hunted both roaded and roadless areas. The logging that has gone on has improved the game population. But when areas are gated, people tend to ignore the gates and destroy them and pass on roads that were to be shut off for game and road management purposes. If a roadless area could be managed and logged, game could flourish without competition from vehicles

I don't feel that I am any more unique than anyone else testifying here today, but I do feel in as much of a dilema as anyone. I very much enjoy going to areas without roads and not having to compete with vehicular traffic. On the other hand, I rely on logging for my livelihood. Roadless areas are fine, but the timber should be harvested and managed for maximum utilization. Wilderness areas should be left alone, untouched by mineral, petroleum and timber industries.

In conclusion, a final plan must be decided on so that general use forest, roadless forest and wilderness areas have hard and fast rules and regulations and boundries. The areas should be of reasonable size. A happy medium in size is important. Utilization should be made where reasonable. Industry doesn't need to get fat, but a steady job is of great value. An obstructed view of the forest is possible with too few trees as well as too many.

Thank you

Roque Couvillion
W. W. 5278 Ross Lane
Florence, Montana 58933

I WAS TOLD I WOULD TESTIFY AT THE MISSOULA HEARING BUT DIDN'T GET REGISTERED IN TIME

Senator MELCHER. Now panel No. 2. Edwin W. Levin is first.

STATEMENT OF ED LEVIN

Mr. LEVIN. My name is Ed Levin. I would like to thank Montana's congressional delegation for this opportunity to offer my views on a subject that interests me, and I promise to express my gratitude by keeping my comments brief especially in light of the fact that I am not here in any expert capacity.

I am here primarily as an individual and as a sportman whose principal use of proposed wilderness areas would likely be for hunting. I think I should preface anything I say on this matter of wilderness by pointing out what effect it has on me personally as someone who likes to go hunting. I think I should prepare anything I say on this matter of wilderness by pointing out what effect it has on me personally as someone who likes to go hunting. First of all I'm a schoolteacher for most of the year, and in the fall when I would like to use the wilderness I am usually working 5 days a week. I don't own any horses and I have no ready access to horses at least for the present. Outfitters are expensive and time is short. The upshot of all this is that as regards the use which I would like to put our resources, I get very little wilderness use at all, and I have heard others in similar situations echo the same complaints.

But having said all this, I would like to go on record as an unequivocal supporter of the wilderness concept and to urge Montana's congressional delegation to enlarge our wilderness areas to the greatest possible and practical extent, based on expert advice. Considering the pressures of population and development which are certain to bear on the plants, animals, and minerals of our wildlands, it would be better to err on the side of generosity to future generations and to make our wildernesses a little too large rather than a little too small.

Even though I own a recreational vehicle, I am a strong supporter of road closures which protect such species as the grizzly bear, which are sensitive to heavy invasions of human activity. I would like to see more roads closed and some of the motor vehicle roads now in existence planted over and obliterated.

I know that many people are impatient with the wilderness debate and want to see it resolved one way or another. I know it has been going on a long time, but I would urge caution and deliberation. It may seem that there is not much time, but there is even less wilderness, and if we make the wrong decision in this matter there will be still less of it as time goes on. Let us make the right decision for ourselves, our great grandchildren, the country, the plants, and the animals.

Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Ed Madej.

STATEMENT OF ED MADEJ, VICE PRESIDENT, BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE

Mr. MADEJ. My name is Ed Madej from Helena, and I am one of the eight regional vice-presidents of the Bob Marshall Alliance. First of all, I would like to thank you, Senator Melcher, Senator

Baucus, Congressman Williams, and Congressman Marlenee, for your patience and attention during these many hours of testimony during the past week. Interestingly enough, we've saved testimony on the best area for last in these 3 days of hearings, the Rocky Mountain Front Additions to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas. The Bob Marshall Alliance, after nearly 3 years of discussion and compromise, has decided to advocate wilderness protection for 224,000 acres of the Rocky Mountain Front in five areas, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek, and Deep Creek.

When we discuss the wildland values of these Rocky Mountain Front areas, we are not talking of some small, little-known roadless area which may or may not be of high wilderness quality, but of a wilderness and wildlife resource of international fame and importance. Indeed, the wildlife values of the wild Rocky Mountain Front are equalled only by the big game herds of the Greater Yellowstone Park Region here in the lower 48 States.

Lest you think I exaggerate, let me list some of the area's superlatives. The Rocky Mountain Front, especially the Deep Creek area, supports the largest bighorn sheep herd in North America, some 1,000 animals. Sheep from this herd have been used to restock depleted bighorn ranges throughout the West. Similarly, mountain goats from the Deep Creek area were used to establish goat herds in dozens of mountain ranges in the State of Montana. These Rocky Mountain Front areas help support the last healthy grizzly bear population south of the Canadian border. The grizzly population in the Greater Yellowstone Park Region has been declining due to poaching and destruction of habitat on critical public lands surrounding the park.

The second largest herd of mule deer in the Nation, some 10,000 head, roam the valleys of the front. The largest herd of mule deer in the West is found in the Piceance Basin of Colorado, which is scheduled for intensive development for its oil shale resources. These wildlife populations, and many others only slightly less notable, depend in whole or in part on the continued existence of the wild country in the Rocky Mountain Front.

With such remarkable wildlife resources, you would expect the area to be protected as a national park rather than merely an undesignated, roadless piece of national forest land. In fact, the National Park Service during the early 1960's evaluated the area surrounding Gibson Reservoir including the Deep Creek and Renshaw Mountain areas to be of national park quality.

The carefully drawn boundaries of the Bob Marshall Alliance's proposal would keep things as they are in the Rocky Mountain Front and protect the traditional multiple uses of this land. The proposed wilderness additions would support hunting, fishing, grazing, hiking, and outfitting while protecting wildlife winter ranges and critical watersheds. Lands released from wilderness consideration would continue to support the present levels of firewood cutting and the harvesting of posts and poles and house logs.

Instead of protecting these traditional multiple uses of the front, the Forest Service would promote multiple abuse of the area with greatly increased roading for commercial logging and energy exploration.

You will hear much testimony today from the energy industry lobbyists about the need for increased access to large areas of public lands for energy exploration and development, since obviously they are not satisfied with the one-third of the United States and the 40 percent of the State of Montana which they already have under lease. It is true that a few modest deposits of natural gas may be found in the wild portions of the Rocky Mountain Front, but you must ask yourself the question: Do we really need to go this far to get the energy resources we need to survive? Sacrificing the wild values of the Rocky Mountain Front for natural gas would be like burning Charlie Russell paintings in your wood stove in order to keep warm. It will work for a short while, but what do you do when they are all gone?

I urge the Montana congressional delegation to protect these Rocky Mountain Front wildlands and accept the Bob Marshall Alliance's proposal. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Rosemary Rowe.

STATEMENT OF ROSEMARY ROWE, CHAIR, UPPER MISSOURI GROUP, SIERRA CLUB

Ms. ROWE. My name is Rosemary Rowe, and I am here today to represent the 300 members of the Upper Missouri Group of the Sierra Club which includes the Helena and Great Falls areas.

First let me express my support for alternative W for the entire State.

In regard to specific wilderness proposals, I would like to address some comments to an area with which I am most familiar, the Rocky Mountain Front. From extensive hiking in the front, I've found these wildlands to have as high a wilderness quality as any designated or undesignated area within Montana or outside that I have ever visited. You will be hearing a lot today about Deep Creek which was mistakenly left out of the Bob Marshall when it was created in 1940. I would like to say a few things about some other parts of the front.

The Teton High Peak area is separated from the Deep Creek Further Planning Area only by an arbitrary boundary created by the Forest Service. The spectacular high mountain scenery and excellent recreational values of this country qualify it for addition to the Bob Marhsall along with Deep Creek. Headquarters Pass is the most precipitous and impressive back-country pass that I've ever crossed. Beneath the pass is a large alpine bowl only 3 miles from the trailhead. This is certainly one of the most accessible alpine areas in the Bob Marshall region. Above Headquarters towers Rocky Mountain Peak, the highest point in the Bob Marshall country, which besides being impressive scenery supports a herd of mountain goats. Route Creek Pass at the head of the Middle Fork of the Teton River is very similar to Headquarters Pass. The 6-mile-long valley of the Middle Fork is the last unroaded fork of the Teton River. Unless protected, the Forest Service plans to log this valley.

The Silver King/Falls Creek recommended wilderness includes the headwaters of the Dearborn River and the north side of Steamboat Mountain. Once again the Forest Service has created an illogi-

cal boundary by excluding the north side of Steamboat Mountain and lower Falls Creek. The Bob Marshall Alliance's boundaries are more reasonable. Steamboat Mountain is the most prominent landmark in the southern Rocky Mountain Front. The upper Dearborn River valley is one of the premier wilderness valleys of the front. It features excellent trout fishing along a beautiful limestone canyoned river.

The Rocky Mountain Front is unique in that these still unspoiled wildlands are highly accessible and provide a high quality of wilderness experience for the family dayhike as well as room for more extensive trips for hunters, backpackers and horsepackers. Despite this accessibility, all of these areas offer solitude and isolation from the modern world. If these wildlands of the Rocky Mountain Front are developed, as they will be sooner or later unless they receive protection, a lot of people who are unable to spend the longer amounts of time necessary to reach the center of the Bob Marshall are going to be deprived of a quality wilderness experience.

Quality outdoor experiences more than any other characteristic, define the uniqueness of Montana. Back-country recreation, whether it is fishing, horseback riding or hiking is a way of life in Montana. We take it for granted, but the people who come here to vacation from all over the country and the world do not. They know that we've got something special, and they are willing to spend a lot of time and money to get here.

Gentlemen, I urge you to meet the challenge of protecting the unique wildness of Montana by supporting alternative W.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jeff Birkby.

STATEMENT OF JEFF BIRKBY, HELENA, MONT.

Mr. BIRKBY. Good morning, my name is Jeff Birkby and I live at 534 Highland Avenue in Helena, Mont. I am here to speak in support of jobs and a growing economy for Montanans, but that is not to say that I support deleting further additions to the wilderness areas of Montana. Far from it. Montana's existing wilderness areas support one of the State's most stable, lucrative and environmentally benign industries, outfitting and tourism. The adoption of alternative W with its addition of 2.2 million acres of pristine wildlands to Montana's wilderness system will allow a significant expansion of long-term stable tourism, while removing an insignificant percentage of land from the total amount available for development.

I personally have backpacked extensively in the proposed Rocky Mountain Front addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I have seen entire meadows filled with the rare and delicate ladies slipper orchid, have marveled at the sight of one of the biggest concentrations of bighorn sheep in the Nation, and have enjoyed the beauty of the unspoiled vistas available in areas such as Deep Creek Canyon and Renshaw Mountain. All of these activities are incompatible with development for oil, gas, or timber. But all of these activities can be the basis for an expanded wilderness experience for tourists, one of the fastest and most profitable industries in the Nation.

I am considering starting an outfitting operation in Montana, drawing tourists interested in an outdoor adventure to areas in our State that are unspoiled by signs of development. I am not alone in my dream. Many other potential outfitters exist in Montana, and several new outfitting firms have started operation in the past year. These firms are aimed not only at hunters, but more and more to the growing demand for a wilderness experience simply to savor the unspoiled beauty that only wilderness areas can provide. The outfitting business is booming nationwide and with good reason. Americans are demanding more and more wilderness adventures and are willing to pay a hefty price for this privilege. These tourist dollars add millions to Montana's economy, provide hundreds of jobs for outfitters and service industries alike, and will continue to provide job stability and profit to Montana's economy long after the oil rigs have sucked up their short-term profits and have shipped them out of State.

Expanding Montana's wilderness areas through the adoption of alternative W will make available even more areas for the commercial expansion of outfitting and back-country tourism, providing additional jobs for outfitters and support industries, and drawing additional dollars to boost Montana's long-term economy.

I urge this committee to accept the recommendations of alternative W, and in doing so support a stable, growing economy for all Montanans. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Bill Cunningham.

STATEMENT OF BILL CUNNINGHAM, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I'm Bill Cunningham for the Montana Wilderness Association. During the previous two hearings, the Montana Wilderness Association community has been very supportive of alternative W. Your booklet contains descriptions and photographs of each of the two proposed wildernesses and eight additions to the existing ones which total some 1.9 million acres of the very best of the last of our wilderness heritage. I have bent over backwards to facilitate the kinds of constructive needs to develop enough consensus so that you gentlemen can pass RARE II legislation.

Already with our revised alternative W, we have dropped several areas from our original proposal and we have modified more than a dozen other areas to accommodate real or imagined potential consensus. The result is a package which, if adopted, will reserve a wildland legacy for future generations unequaled in the continental United States.

I have been going into the Bob Marshall for 32 years, since I was a boy. I think I know the country and I have spent a great deal—amount of time in the Deep Creek area which deserves particular mention. I am intimately familiar with the sense of what the Bob Marshall is all about, and it is threatened with what we believe is the illegal issuance of oil and gas leases. Contrary to what you will later hear, there are no roads within our boundary proposal, but roads will eventually be built if we fail to act by protecting this country.

In conclusion yesterday we had a field adventure to Renshaw Rocky Mountain Addition while you gentlemen were flying overhead, and we had a man climbing to the top of Fairview Mountain. We saw approximately 200 head of elk at Fairview Plateau. This is an area left out of the Forest Service proposal, but thanks to you it is included in the Bob Marshall proposal. Two of us saw a mountain lion at the top sucking a weak calf, which reminded me of the age-old predator that has continued since the being of time and which with wilderness will continue into the future.

Montana is very special because of our wild places, and we urge you to give them the encouragement.

Mr. Chairman, I have six letters in support of alternative W that I would like to insert into the hearing record.

Senator MELCHER. That will be made part of the record.

[The letters follow:]

Testimony Of Cary B. Lund
To the United States Senate Committee On Energy And Natural Resources, Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee;
In the Matter of the Designation of Wilderness Areas in the State of Montana.

Comments Prepared for Hearing on the Helena, Lewis & Clark, and Custer National Forests. Further comments on other national forests in Montana will be prepared and submitted to the subcommittee at a later date.

Rocky Mountain Front

Recently, on an Audubon outing the Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp reserve west of Choteau, I had the opportunity to listen to several people who have knowledge of the wildlife populations of the Rocky Mountain Front. These wildlife biologists with the sweep of the Front before us brought home the fact that the high plains, the Front, and the Bob Marshall and related designated wilderness form an integral wildlife area. That area contains large populations of big game animals and grizzley. I would ask that the committee move to include all the areas of the Front proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance into the existing wildernesses. This action would go a long way towards protecting for future use the nationally significant wildlife populations of the area. These populations are a proud heritage for Montanan's.

It is notable that some of the drainages proposed for protection on the front contain rare populations of orchid species. These populations are limited and would be endangered if uncontrolled developments should occur at or near their sites. Specific information on these orchid populations may be obtained from the University of Montana Botany Department.

Tenderfoot-Deep Creek Lewis & Clark National Forest

This area of canyons feeding into the Smith River Canyon is a rugged area with high scenic qualities. The Smith River is one of the most popular wilderness type rivers in the state for water recreation. The designation of wilderness on the forest service lands would assure that this important recreation resource could continue to have high aesthetic and therefore economic value for the region.

Gates of the Mountains additions, Nevada Mountain, Mt. Baldy, Camas Creek, and Little Blackfoot Meadows Helena National Forest

I support the establishment of these areas as wilderness in accordance with the proposal of the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition.

Line Creek Plateau Custer National Forest

This plateau is the eastern most aspect of the Beartooth Uplift where the 10,000 to 11,000 foot inelevation plateau drops off precipitously to the plains over 6,000 feet below. The plateau is characterized by alpine vegetation. There are no known timber or mineral values within the area. This is an area which I have hiked on several times. It is quite rugged with its boulder strewn slopes and meadows. The views from here are stunning. The area can only be characterized as wilderness. Unfortunately, its alpine vegetation is vulnerable to any disturbance. It would be very destructive of that vegetation, if any form of development where to be allowed in the area. I strongly urge that the area be given wilderness protection.

Lost Water Canyon Custer National Forest

The Pryor Mountains, of which Lost Water Canyon is a part, are quite simply put different than any other mountain range in the State of Montana. The scenery is exceptional for the region in its desert and southwest like canyons. The plants and wildlife of this area include many species either at their northern most range in North America or disjunct from the main ranges in the Great Basin. The establishment of this area as a wilderness is imperative to assure the maintenance of these unusual populations.

I thank the committee for providing to the public this opportunity to determine those areas of the State of Montana which should be protected as wilderness so as to preserve their outstanding natural qualities.

27-608 O - 84 - 44

8 July 1983

TO: Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

I write to express my strong support for the wilderness additions proposed in Alternative W.

Alternative W includes a number of areas that have particular significance to me--areas I have spent considerable time in over the past eight years and which have come to play important roles in my ability to understand and appreciate Montana and, indeed, the world.

I especially urge you to support wilderness designation for the following areas:

The Rocky Mountain Front areas (Deep Creek, Renshaw Mtn, Teton River High Peaks, Choteau Mtn, and Falls Creek-Silver King)

Monture Creek
Swan Front
The Great Burn
Flint Creek Range

As I said before, I have spent time in each of these areas and have been fortunate to get to know them and their wilderness qualities. There is no question in my mind but that these areas offer both Montana and the Nation their highest possible values as Wilderness.

I believe my opinion carries some professional weight, and represents not merely the emotions of a recreational enthusiast. I hold a Master's Degree in Forestry from the University of Montana and have worked extensively on state and federal land management and natural resource studies, including wilderness evaluation field work for both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in Montana. I understand the trade-offs involved in Wilderness designation as well as the kinds of qualities our society looks for in prospective wilderness areas.

Again, I believe the above mentioned areas in particular deserve your support.

Sincerely,

Tom Daubert
20 N. Rodney
Helena, MT 59601

July 8, 1983

To: Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

It is not often that any of us have the opportunity to debate an issue with such strong implications for the future beyond our lifetime. Indeed, the press of everyday decisions sometimes seems too much. But right now we do have that special chance to decide what lands are so unique, so critical to Montana and to our national heritage that they deserve wilderness designation.

The issue really is bigger than immediate jobs and resource development, but because these issues demand our attention right now, it is difficult to remove ourselves from the present to project what kind of statement we want to make about our wildlands for future generations.

How does one get a perspective on such an important question? There are strong and urgent arguments to release much of the RARE II lands to development. People are rightfully concerned about earning a livelihood and to insure that Montana's resources can be counted on for the advancement and growth of this nation. But Montana must be counted on for more than timber and oil and gas; we have something that few other states possess - land that is still much as it was with the arrival of the mountain men and trappers. Because we are so proud and aware of this special resource, we must take very special care of it.

My stongest concern is for the protection of areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and in particular, for Deep Creek. To have received the highest possible score on the wilderness attribute rating scale is far more valuable than speculative oil and gas prospects.

Please, accept this written testimony as my full support for Alternative W and especially for adding Deep Creek to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Thank you.

Susan Miles Bryan

Susan Miles Bryan
613 Hollins
Helena, Montana 59601

Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Williams
Representative Marlenee

July 9, 1983

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

I would like this letter to be a part of the official hearing record on a statewide wilderness bill for Montana.

I have long valued and utilized our existing system of wild lands. I support the additions to that system embodied in Alternative W, and encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to do the same.

Of particular interest to me are the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I support the following additions to the Bob Marshall complex: Swan Front, Monture Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, and Falls Creek-Silver King. These areas have high wilderness value and, I believe, are best placed under the protection of official wilderness designation.

I am particularly interested in the Deep Creek area. The wildlife values of this area are tremendous. The largest herd of bighorn sheep in North America, the Sun River elk herd, grizzlies, deer and mountain goats all regularly move between the Deep Creek area and the existing Bob Mashall Wilderness.

In my opinion, wilderness designation for Deep Creek would not create a conflict with livestock grazing. Any pre-existing grazing is compatible with such a designation. The area has historically been used as wilderness regardless of its legal designation. I encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to include Deep Creek as an integral part of the Bob Marshall.

Again, I support Alternative W and the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and encourage the delegation to do the same.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pedersen
7451 York Rd
Helena, Mont 59601

Scott Kronberg
718 S 12th Ave
Bozeman, Montana 59715

July 7, 1983

Public Lands Subcommittee
of the U.S. Senate Energy
and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Sirs,

I can not attend the hearing in Great Falls concerning the RARE II lands on the Lewis and Clark, Helena and Custer National Forests, so I will make my comments concerning these areas in this letter. Please make this letter part of the hearing record.

I support, for wilderness designation, the five areas on the Rocky Mountain Front totalling 221,000 acres. I have spent alot of time walking and riding in these areas and I can attest for their outstanding wilderness qualities. The wildlife resource in these areas is extremely significant. The Deep Creek area deserves wilderness protection for its importance to the grizzly and bighorn sheep alone. I believe that the value of the wildland resources that these areas hold far exceed the $ value of the natural gas and oil that they may contain. These areas deserve to be added to the Bob Marshall country.

I also support for wilderness the conservationist "alternative W" areas in the Helena and Custer National Forest and the Tenderfoot - Deep Creek area in the Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Sincerely,
Scott Kronberg

STATEMENT OF ELLEN ARGUIMBAU, 1027 NORTH JACKSON ST., HELENA, MT.

July 9, 1983

I had planned to present this testimony in person, but a serious illness in my family has forced me to be out of town. I wish this statement to be made a part of the hearing record.

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

In Montana it is unpopular to admit that one is not a native. This reflects Montanans deep-seated need to protect the quality of life which makes Montana unique. But it is an irony that in many ways it takes an immigrant like myself to truly appreciate what native-Montanans love, often without clearly understanding what it is that they treasure. They take so much for granted.

I come from the "rural" East--a small town in Massachusetts. When I was growing up I treasured what I naively thought of as a wilderness--the mile of woods behind our house. I was fond of walking through the woods with my dog, fantasizing that I was in real wilderness--that the woods did not really end a mile away.

It was only when I became an adult and moved to Colorado that I began to have the beginnings of a concept of what wilderness might be and what it was that I was looking for. Colorado is incredibly beautiful, but there was still something wrong. It was over-run with people and their creations--roads, ski resorts, mines, condominiums--the list was endless. So I moved on.

In Montana, I believe I have found a last remnant of what I was seeking--a place where one can be truly alone with the exhilirating feeling that there is not a human creation in miles. What is so incredible in my home of Helena is that this experience can be found within one to three hours of my workplace. Where else in the country is this possible? South of Helena, and East of Helena are the Elkhorn Mountains, the Big Belt Mountains and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, all within a little over an hour's drive. To the north and west are the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wildernesses, and the incredibly beautiful, unprotected but yet undamaged, lands adjacent to "the Bob" known as Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, the Dearborn River country & others. Does anyone not from Montana or other western states have any concept of what this is like? This is a resource of Montana's which is truly unique in the most real sense of that word.

I have commented so far very personally because I feel so strongly personal about this area of Montana. I would like in the rest of this statement to support Alternative W for the Helena & Lewis & Clark national Forests.

I have personally hiked in many of these areas. I would like to comment specifically on several areas in which I have hiked & in some cases cross-country skied. Mt Baldy in the Big Belt Mountains is a popular area to hike & hunt because it is readily accessible from Duck Creek Pass road. A relatively easy hike (covered with over a foot of snow when I hiked it in October 1981) up the ridge brings you to the top. There are incredible views over the whole Missouri River & Smith River valleys. The day we were up there we saw a large herd of big horn sheep.

I frequently hike in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. One of my favorite hikes which crosses the ridge from the Nelson area to Flagg Gulch on the Missouri River crosses through the proposed addition to the Wilderness. On my first hike in this area I sat entranced for fully 10 minutes while a blue grouse strutted up and down in his mating routine on a log barely 15 feet from me.

I have also hiked and skied in the Rocky Mountain Front area. I camped in the vicinity

of Renshaw Lake on the first weekend in October last fall. The next morning on the lake shore we saw the fresh tracks of a large grizzly bear. The day before we had seen superimposed on eachother the tracks of a grizzly bear and a black bear. This Renshaw proposed addition is obviously prime grizzly and black bear habitat.

The proposed Deep Creek addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness is one of the most spectacular places I have been. Row after row after row of reef-like formation jut into the sky with the plains in the background. Most dramatic of these is Capital Reef, but there are many more almost as impressive. To preserve the Bob Marshall's Chinese Wall and Prairie Reef formations and leave unprotected Capital Reef and the others of the Deep Creek area is totally incomprehensible to me. They are equally stunning.

I could continue to list the many areas in Alternative W which are deserving of Wilderness Protection, but I realize that the time of the Committee is short. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion, & strongly urge you to support Alternative W.

Thank you

Ella A. Ogilvie

Senator MELCHER. Darylo Murphy.

STATEMENT OF DARYLO MURPHY, YELLOWSTONE BASIN GROUP, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Yellowstone Basin Group of the Sierra Club in Billings, Mont., also including much of eastern Montana within that Yellowstone Basin Group.

I want to start with a few general and retrospective thoughts. Most of my life I have resided in the West. In my youth I spent many summers in the Shoshoni National Forest in Wyoming, which I came to know and love the wilderness, although it was not so designated at that time. Just this past month I had the opportunity to renew my acquaintance with some of my youthful wilderness. It was a disheartening reunion. The forest of my youthful dreams had been so desecrated due to misused foresting management and questionable logging practices, that it was scracely recognizable. There were deep gullies due to increased runoff, and several of my once favorite, once clear and pure streams, were heavily laden with sediment from the clear-cut slopes above. I felt hurt and somehow betrayed. Because of what has already happened in the Shoshoni National Forest, I hope to more clearly delineate what we risk by failing to secure as much as possible of our natural heritage. And by tirelessly seeking to redefine, vis-a-vis, our environment as more respectful and less economic oriented, I hope we can avoid mistakes we have made in the past. Without this we can do significant and irrevocable damage to nature.

I would like at this time to express support of the Sierra Club for alternative W. The need is for designation of these areas as wilderness. Two areas within the Custer National Forest are included in alternative W as well as Line Creek Plateau. Due to time constraints describing these areas in as great a detail as they both merit, the description will be brief. Lost Water Mountain about 70 miles south of Billings, the area is a part hopefully to be designated of approximately 38,000 acre wilderness. Wildlife abounds and

there are limestone cliffs with tops rising up to 1,000 thousand feet above the canyon.

Is a dry alpine ecosystem characterized by short, rather dramatic summers, and is a major winter range for the mountain goat. As with any ecosystem, it is susceptible to environmental change and particularly slow to heal. It is certainly in need of protection.

One final hard release for lands not designated or studied for wilderness as unacceptable, we must maintain the option of it as the need arises. Undue haste in deciding is not in the public interest. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Doctor Malen.

STATEMENT OF DR. CHARLES J. MARLEN, GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Dr. MARLEN. My name is Charles Marlen. I'm a physician in this area and outdoor enthusiast.

This is a request that the Deep Creek area of the Rocky Mountain Front be placed in the wilderness system. Deep Creek is located between the Sun River and Teton River drainages west of Chouteau, Mont. To the west its border is the Bob Marshall Wilderness which means Deep Creek offers a wilderness migration access for animals from the Bob Marshall to the big game wintering ranges on the edge of the Rocky Mountain Front. This enhances the value of the Bob Marshall. The Ear Mountain winter game range is located just northeast of Deep Creek.

There are eight big game species in the Deep Creek area. This includes elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, grizzly, black bear, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and mountain lion. The number of large mammals alone makes it unique.

I understand the Deep Creek area received 28 of 28 wilderness attribute points by the Forest Service which means it has to be special. The area should be saved for future generations under wilderness classification.

I have no qualms of the decision as it is classified or otherwise, but we are making decisions that mean we'll either change it or leave it as is. Only under the wilderness system will it stay as is. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Dr. Rogers.

STATEMENT OF DR. W. A. ROGERS, GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Dr. ROGERS. My name is Bill Rogers, I'm a veterinarian from Great Falls, and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Deep Creek area and immediately surrounding areas of the Rocky Mountain Front are one of the most unique regions in the entire United States as far as wildlife habitat is concerned.

This area supports grizzly bear, black bear, elk, bighorn sheep, whitetail deer, mule deer, moose, mountain goats and immediately to the east, the antelope. The area is essentially roadless. Almost no other area in Montana or the United States can lay claim to so many different species in huntable numbers.

In my opinion, this area should be off-limits entirely to oil and gas exploration, seismographic work and no roads built. This is not to say that this area should be designated a wilderness area. The key word is habitat. Destroy the habitat and you destroy the wild

animal, just as surely as my emasculator will destroy the reproductive capability of any domestic animal.

Last night around the supper table, my 13-year-old boy said, "Dad, we must save these areas." Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jim Curtis.

STATEMENT OF JAMES F. CURTIS, PRESIDENT, BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE

Mr. CURTIS. I'm Jim Curtis, Missoula, Mont. On behalf of the Bob Marshall Alliance of which I am currently president, I want to express thanks for holding these field hearings so that Montanans are given the opportunity to present their views concerning how Montana's remaining wildlands should be managed.

What I want to do is summarize my remarks here briefly. To set the background for what the Bob Marshall Alliance is, the Bob Marshall Alliance was first organized about 3 years ago in response to an imminent threat of seismic exploration and oil and gas leasing in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. That problem was solved pretty well in large part by prompt and timely action by the congressional delegation for which we wish to at this time express thanks. But there still remains substantial areas along the perimeter of the Bob Marshall that are under serious threat, and it is these areas that we want to discuss with respect as it is important for a number of reasons.

The present wilderness boundaries were not established on the principle of preserving the complete ecosystem. Wildlife are such an important part of the wilderness, many of them spend a part of each year there, and it is currently unprotected. These areas are critical wildlife habitat as has been mentioned by several others. Failure to protect could well mean serious reduction in the number of species that inhabitat these areas. In fact, they are an integral part of the Bob Marshall and have been treated as such by wilderness users for a long time. Nearly all of the most heavily used entrances to the Bob Marshall lie within the areas that we propose as wilderness additions. For example, the Holland Lake entrance, Monture Creek and Bench Mark. Travelers in the wilderness probably do not know where the exact wilderness boundaries are. Should these peripheral regions become eroded, it will be altered significantly. Locations of trails will be changed, wil be modified substantially, often to their disadvantage as well as to the detriment of the established wilderness. Pressures on fragile regions of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat will be markedly increased.

Finally, but by no means least important, is the fact that many of these currently unprotected regions have high wilderness quality in their own right. Even if there were no other reason, the Bob Marshall Alliance believes that they should be added to the Nation's wilderness simply because they are areas of extraordinary wilderness and beauty.

I want to mention briefly the way in which we work. We have working committees for each of the areas, and these working committees utilize all available data. They use a great deal of expertise from our outfitter members and many of our members that are

backpackers and have traveled through the areas extensively. They held meetings around in various towns around the area of concern, and got input from local citizens. In brief, these boundaries were not drawn hastily or arbitrarily, they are the result of a great deal of deliberation, consultation and careful study. I think they should be given serious consideration by the congressional delegation as you develop a wilderness bill. Thank you, gentlemen.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Curtis follows:]

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July 9, 1983

Statement on behalf of the Bob Marshall Alliance

Submitted to

Public Lands and Reserved Waters Subcommittee

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Concerning

Montana State-wide Wilderness Legislation

James F. Curtis, Missoula, Montana
President, Bob Marshall Alliance

Mr. Chairman, members of the Montana Congressional delegation. I am James Curtis of Missoula, Montana. On behalf of the Bob Marshall Alliance, of which I am currently president, I want to express thanks for holding these field hearings so that Montanans are given the opportunity to present their views concerning how Montana's remaining wildlands should be managed.

Before I comment on the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness that the Alliance is proposing, I think it is appropriate to place on the record a statement describing the nature and composition of the Alliance. The Bob Marshall Alliance is primarily a very broad-based coalition of organizations. Accompanying this statement is a list of the current thirty-one organization members. A glance at that list will indicate the varied nature of these organizations. Included are not only organizations such as the Wilderness Society, the Montana Wilderness Association, Trout Unlimited and Sierra Club. Also included are the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, several Back Country Horseman's groups, the Montana Trappers Association, the Montana Wildlife Federation and the Western Montana Fish and Game Association. In addition to this central core of organization members, the Bob Marshall Alliance accepts individual members, and our current mailing list includes more than four thousand persons --- most residents of Montana, but a very large number from other states. In fact, there is hardly a state in which the Alliance does not have members.

The Bob Marshall Alliance was first organized about three years ago in response to an imminent threat of seismic exploration and oil and gas leasing in the Bob Marshall Wilderness --- activities that would have been disastrous to the very characteristics of the region that caused Congress to place it in the wilderness preserve. Fortunately, the threat to the already designated wilderness has apparently been averted, due to timely action by Congress. We gratefully acknowledge with thanks the leadership role that members of the Montana delegation played in securing the necessary Congressional action. However, the narrow escape from disaster for the established wilderness served to focus attention on another impending threat which was of deep concern to members of the Alliance, namely, a threat to de facto wilderness areas surrounding the Bob Marshall. It had long been recognized that large as it is, the boundaries of the Bob Marshall wilderness do not enclose all of the area that is critically important for maintenance of the essential wilderness character of this magnificent region. To make the system complete other areas needed to be added. Part of this problem was solved by the successful campaigns which resulted in wilderness designation for the Great Bear and the Scapegoat Wilderness areas. But critical roadless wild areas surrounding the established wilderness still remain today in an unprotected status.

Protection of these areas is important for a number of reasons. The present wilderness boundaries were not established on the principle of preserving as much as possible of a complete ecosystem. The wildlife species that are such an important part of the wilderness recognize no man-made divisions. Many of them spend a part of each year in the currently unprotected roadless areas outside of the wilderness boundaries. These areas are critical wildlife habitat which provide needed winter range, elk calving grounds, migration routes and springtime forage. Included in the species that are critically dependent on these areas are the threatened grizzly bear, large herds of elk, mountain sheep, deer, and other lesser mammals. Failure to protect this essential habitat could well mean serious reductions in number of all of these species.

Also significant is the fact that these areas are, in fact, if not in law, integral parts of the Bob Marshall wilderness complex, and have been treated as such by wilderness users. The way in which the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear are used by outfitters, back packers and hunters is not governed by the actual location of the established wilderness boundaries, but equally importantly by the fact that the wilderness is surrounded by roadless, wild country that is indistinguishable from that lying inside the present boundaries. The existence of these roadless areas determines the location of trailheads and the accessibility of areas inside the established wilderness. Nearly all of the most heavily used entrances to the Bob Marshall Wilderness lie within the areas that we propose as wilderness additions, e.g., the Holland Lake entrance, Monture Creek and Bench Mark. In point of fact, most people who travel in the wilderness probably do not know where the exact wilderness boundaries are. To them it is all one unit, and these currently unprotected roadless areas are as much a part of the wilderness as the area that is legally protected. Furthermore, should these peripheral regions become roaded, the use patterns of the established wilderness will be altered very significantly. Locations of trailheads will be changed. Outfitters operations will be modified substantially, often to their disadvantage as well as to the detriment of the established wilderness. Pressures on fragile regions of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat will be markedly increased. Finally, but by no means least important is the fact that many of these currently unprotected regions have high wilderness quality in their own right. Even if there were no other reason, the Bob Marshall Alliance believes that they should be added to the nation's wilderness preserve simply because they are areas of extraordinary wildness and beauty for which wilderness designation will guarantee the highest and best use.

Cognizant of these facts, and seriously concerned that lack of protection for these areas poses a threat for the entire Bob Marshall Wilderness complex, the Bob Marshall Alliance began, almost three years ago, the effort that has now resulted in our Bob Marshall Additions proposal. In determining the areas to be included in this proposal we have proceeded very deliberately. We have attempted to make full use of all available data and information concerning these areas. We are fortunate to have within our own membership a very substantial amount of expert knowledge of these areas. For example, our outfitter members make many trips annually into the region. In the aggregate, so also do many others of our members who belong to back country horseman groups, or who are backpackers. It is no exaggeration, I believe, to assert that no group anywhere is as familar with this region as are the members of the Alliance. In addition we have made use of data that have been developed by Forest Service studies and we have consulted with local citizens who have interest in and knowledge of the area.

Working committees were assigned the task of studying and developing recommendations for boundaries for specific portions of the proposed additions: one committee for the Swan Front portion on the western side; a second committee for the Clearwater-Monture region on the South and Southwest; and a third for the Rocky Mountain Front on the eastern side. The boundaries shown on the maps of the proposed additions which accompany this statement are primarily the work of these committees, ratified by a general meeting open to all members of the Alliance. In addition to utilizing all the expertise available from members of the Alliance and data available from Forest Service studies, the committees held public meetings at a number of locations adjacent to the areas of concern. For one region,

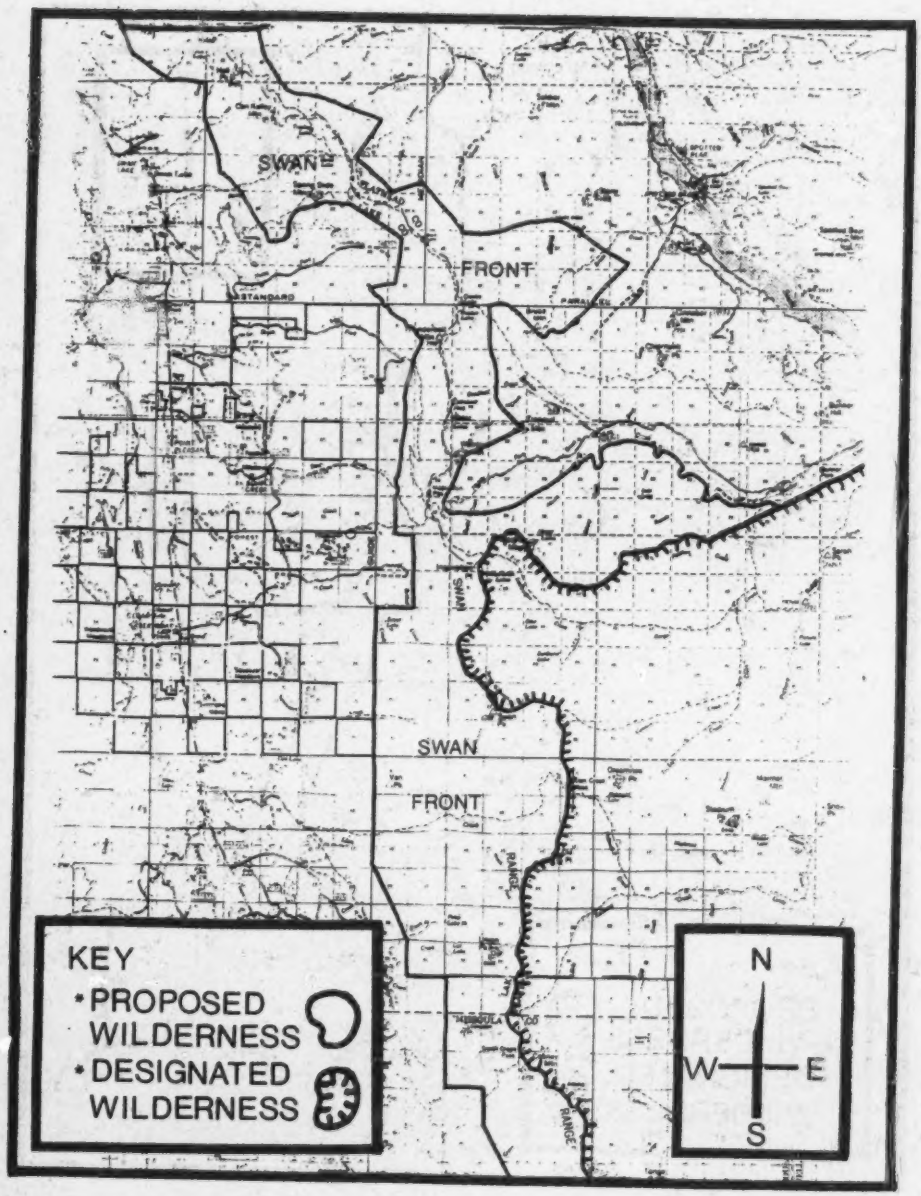
Clearwater-Montura, where there was an apparent resource conflict with timber, a series of meetings was held with representatives of the timber industry with the result that a compromise that could be supported by all parties was reached.

In brief summary, these boundaries were not drawn hastily or arbitrarily. They are the result of a great deal of deliberation, consultation and careful study. In establishing these boundaries we have sought to achieve two major objectives: (1) to provide protection for as much as possible of the Bob Marshall wildlife ecosystem; (2) to provide protection for peripheal areas that have traditionally been used as wilderness, which all users regard as wilderness, and which must be protected if the entire wilderness system is not to suffer serious degradation. The additions here proposed are supported unanimously by all members of the Bob Marshall Alliance. We strongly urge that these areas be designated as wilderness in a Montana state-wide wilderness bill. We trust that the Montana Congressional delegation and the members of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters will give our proposal the serious consideration that we believe it deserves.

As already noted, the work of the Bob Marshall Alliance in developing its proposed additions began about three years ago, long before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision invalidated the RARE II inventory and gave added urgency to resolving wilderness allocation issues. It had been the hope of the Alliance that Congress would act on the Alliance's proposal in a separate Bob Marshall Additions bill, rather than as part of a large, complex state-wide wilderness bill. If we had our preference, the Alliance would still favor a separate bill for the Bob Marshall Additions. However, we have been given to understand that the political realities following the Ninth Circuit Court decision dictate otherwise, and we are prepared to accept that fact.

Nevertheless, we believe that there should be appropriate recognition of the extensive work that the Alliance has invested in the development of its Bob Marshall Additions proposal, and also that the special nature of the constituency that supports this proposal should be recognized. We believe that this can be accomplished within a state-wide omnibus bill by incorporating the Bob Marshall Additions in a separate title of the bill.

In this statement I have not discussed the particular wilderness characteristics of the Bob Marshall Additions proposal. Others testifying at this hearing will provide this information. I have tried to provide background that we believe to be important in understanding the Alliances proposal, together with the principles that we would like to see followed in a state-wide bill incorporating our proposal. We trust that this background, and these ideas, will be given thorough consideration by the Senate Subcommittee and the Montana Congressional delegation as the state-wide wilderness bill is developed.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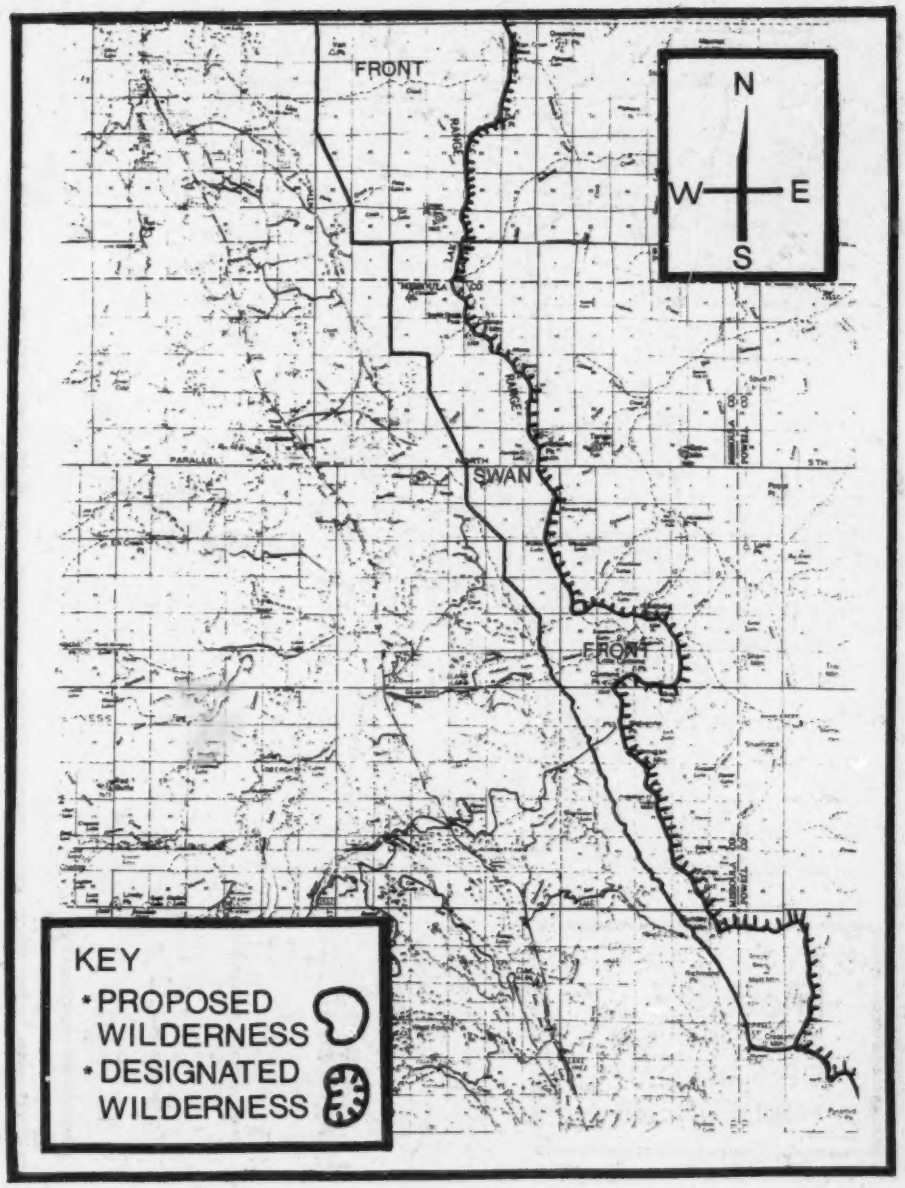
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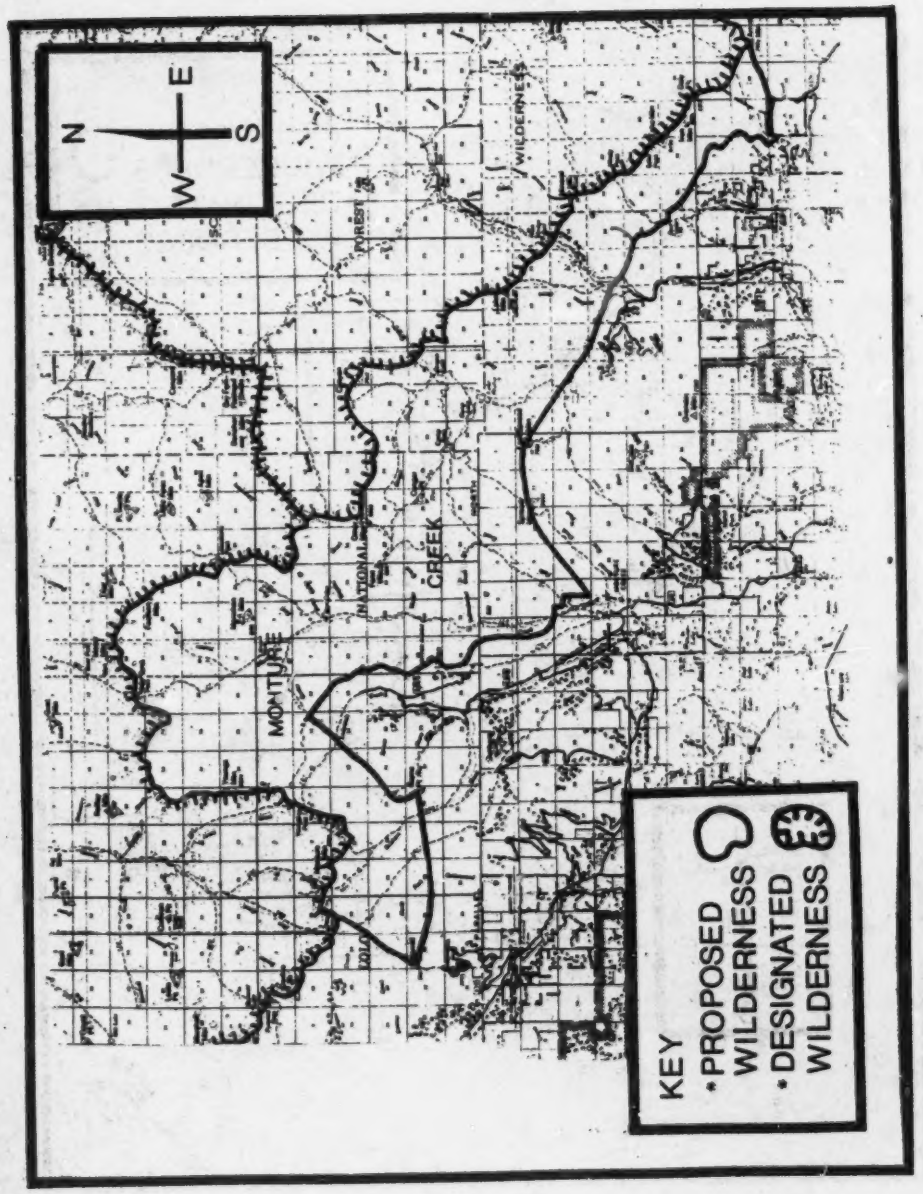
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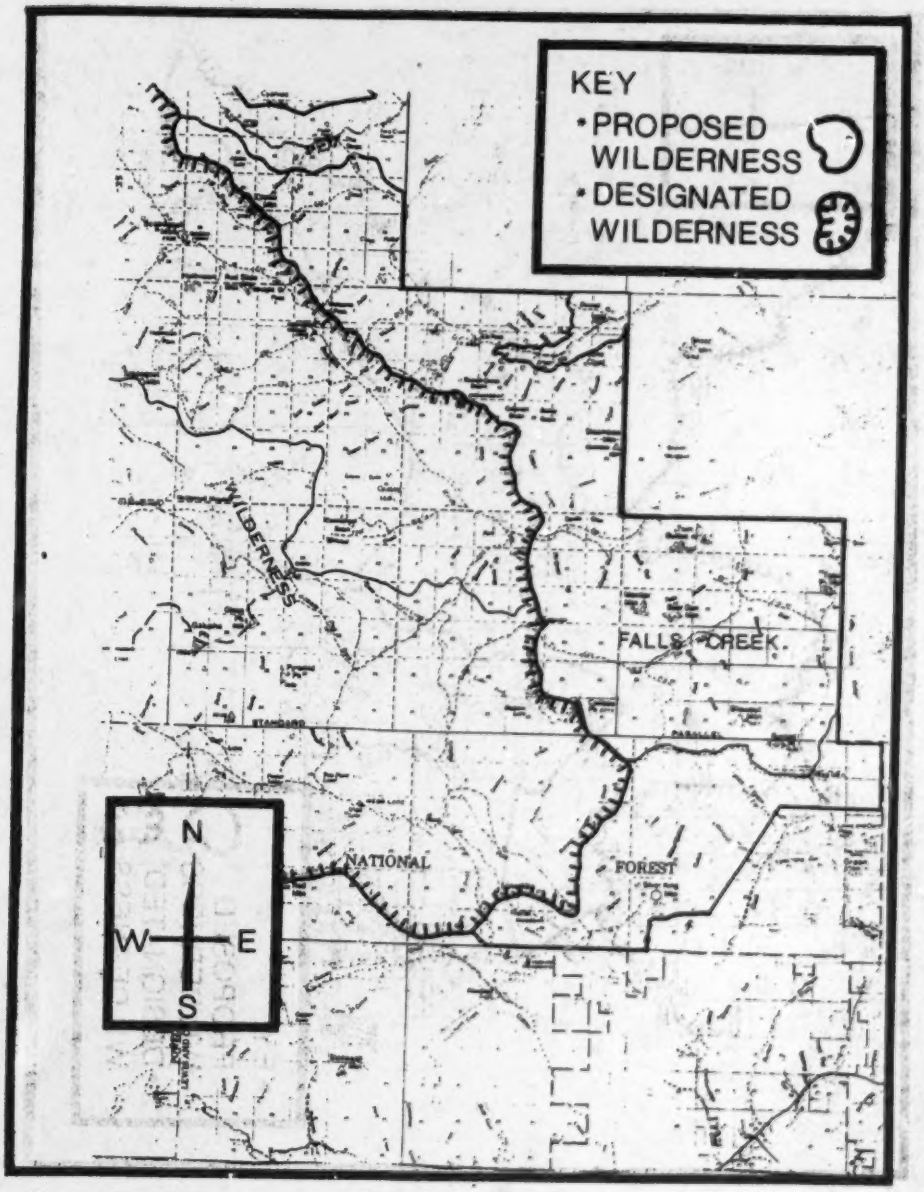
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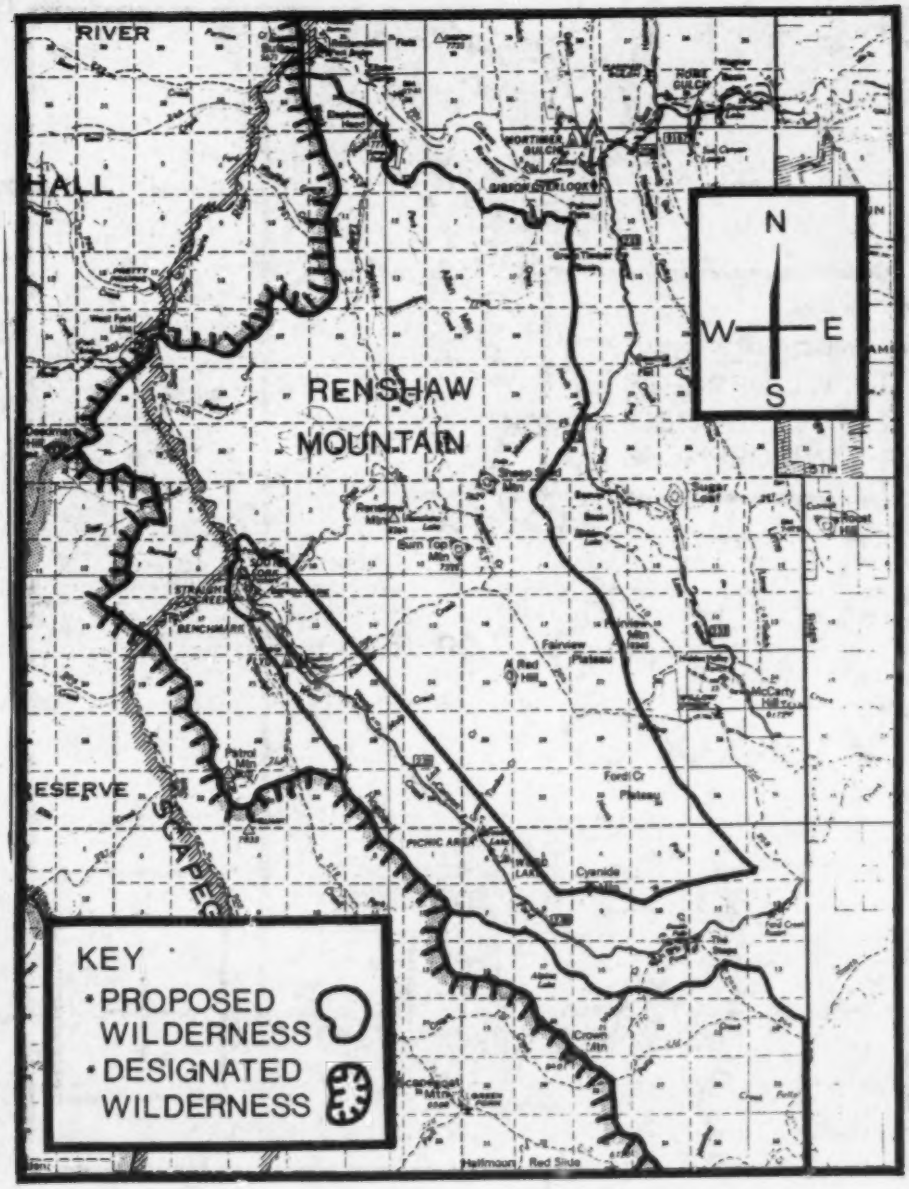
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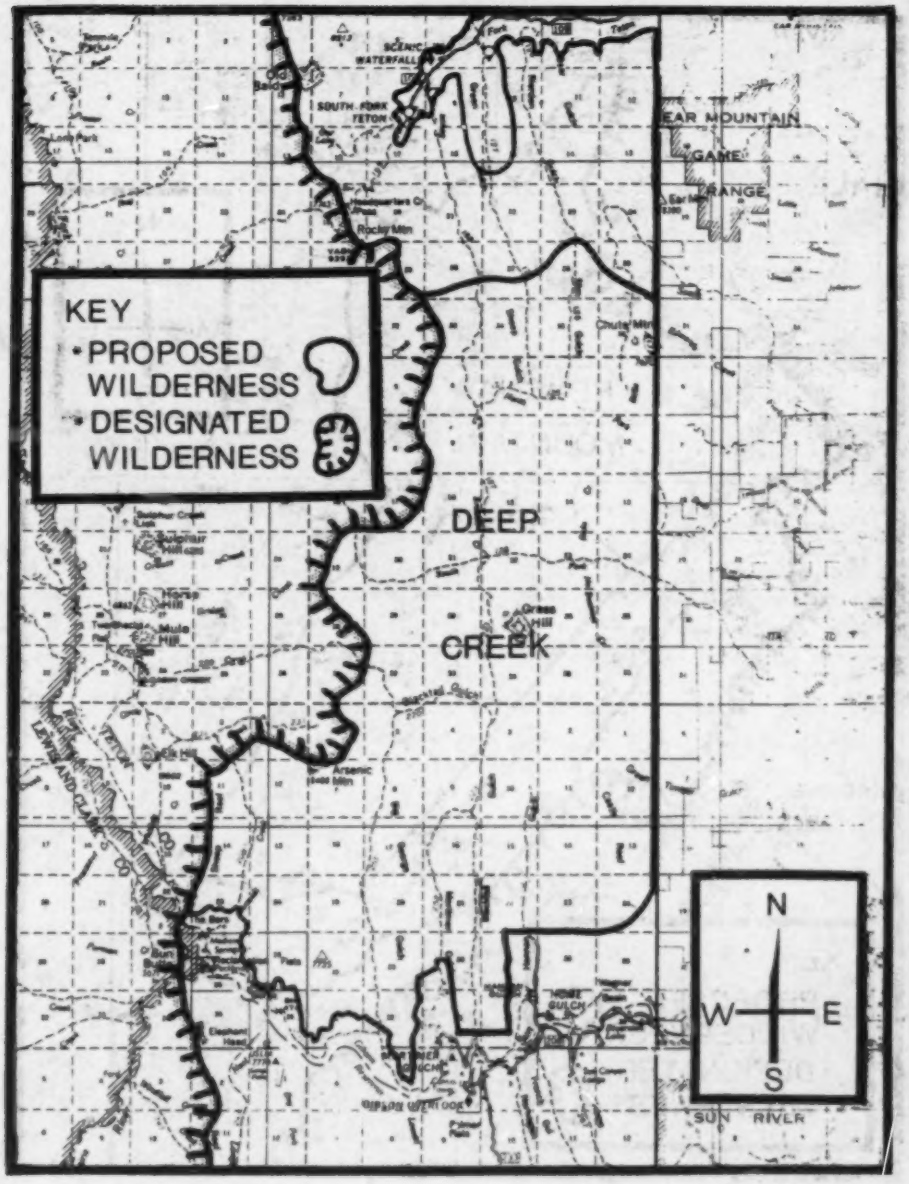
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Teton
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Power
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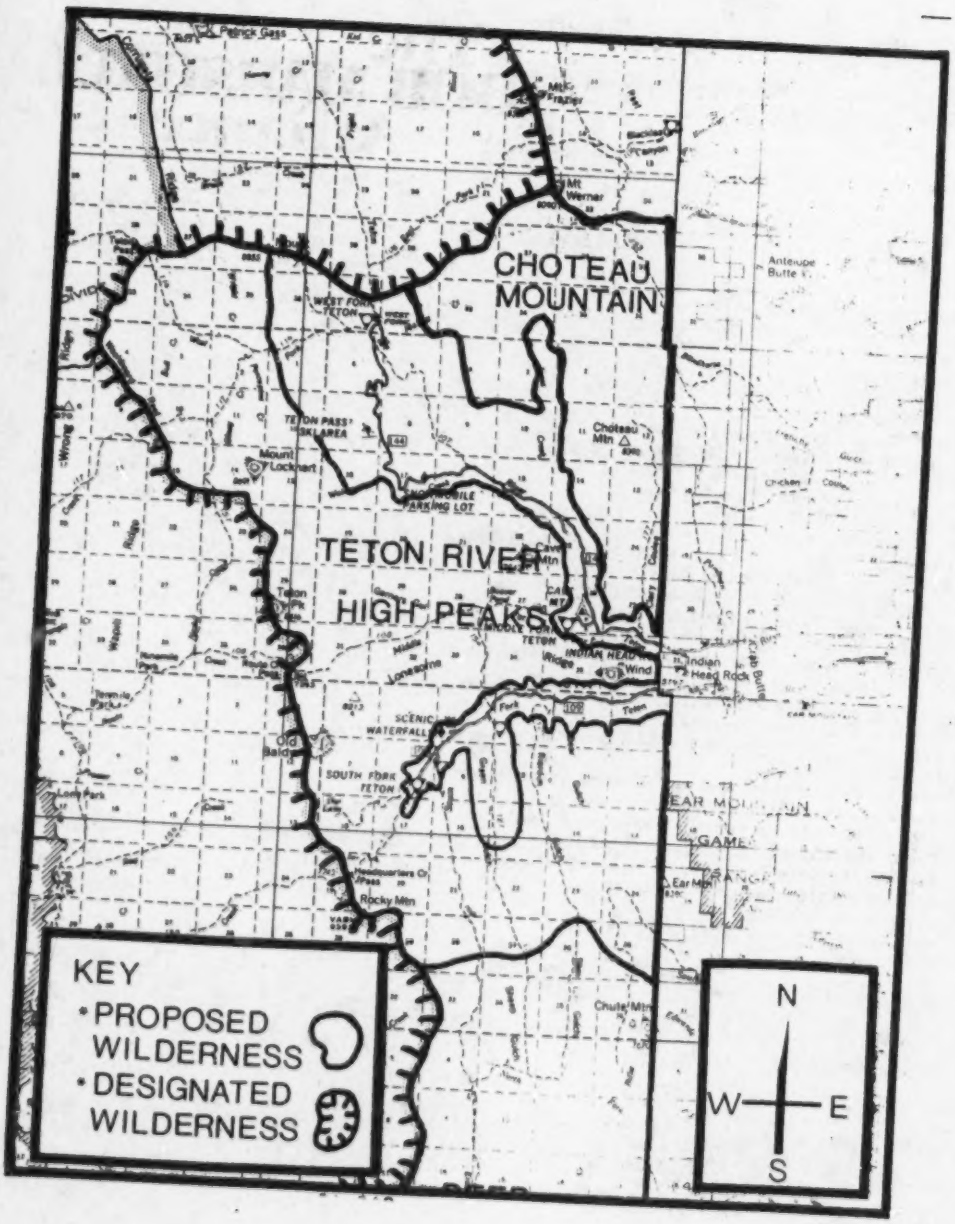
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January 6, 1983

The BOB MARSHALL Alliance

Box 4266 Missoula, MT 59806

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Wilderness Alliance
Backcountry Horsemen of Missoula
Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen
Canyon Coalition
Columbia Falls Backcountry Horsemen
Defenders of Wildlife
East Slope Backcountry Horsemen
Environmental Information Center
Five Valleys Audubon
Flathead Resource Organization
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
Flathead Backcountry Horsemen
Flathead Chapter, Montana Wilderness Association
Friends of the Bob Marshall
Friends of the Rocky Mountain Front
Last Chance Backcountry Horsemen
Mission Valley Backcountry Horsemen
Montana Outfitter and Guides Association
Montana Trappers Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana Wilderness Association
Northwest Chapter of the Wolf Preservation Society
Polson Outdoors
Professional Wilderness Outfitters Association
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Student Action Center, University of Montana
Trout Unlimited, Colorado Council
Western Montana Fish and Game Association
Wildlife-Wildlands Institute
Wilderness Society
Wildlands and Resources Association

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SECRETARY-TREASURER: HANK FISCHER

Save the Bob.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
We'll now call panel 3.
Dick Klick.

STATEMENT OF DICK KLICK, AUGUSTA, MONT.

Mr. KLICK. Congressmen, I stand in support of true wilderness, which is only a small part of the Alliance's proposal.

In 1912 the standard of wilderness was established by East Slope ranchers and sportsmen with the creation of the Sun River Game Preserve, a sanctuary for both animal and man. At that time Bob Marshall was 11 years old.

The area was ready when Bob Marshall came along. His political influence and dedication were needed. The Bob Marshall was created with the same standards as the Sun River Game Preserve. The Allen-Neal and Arsenic Peak additions have some of these same standards. They are a compromise proposal offered by my friends along the front. I do not feel Congress or the Alliance has the right to devalue these standards.

In a recent Tribune article, July 1, Mr. Cunningham says I should be farsighted or a road will go all the way to our ranch. Bill needs glasses to correct his nearsightedness. He cannot see the multitude of roads that will confront his proposed boundary. He cannot see how difficult it will be to define his proposed boundary. The Allen-Neal and Arsenic Peak have natural boundaries. He also cannot see the development potential that will take place on the private property adjacent to his proposed wilderness. Impact on the area's wildlife will be tremendous.

In the same article, Mr. Linder states that the ranchers' proposed wilderness is on both sides of the Klick outfitter camp. He fails to state that these two areas border the Bob Marshall, that you literally have both sides to the acre. He also fails to state the Alliance's boundary would border the Mortimer Gulch subdivision. In calling our beautiful ranch and home below Sun Butte an outfitter camp is like calling the Tribune building a newsstand. I feel Mr. Linder's comments were a deliberate ploy, through me, to undermine the sincerity of the ranchers' proposal.

The lands in question adjacent to the Bob Marshall are nor 85 to 90 percent presently managed for wildlife. The lands harbor limited timbering and logging. They now have limited livestock grazing. They harbor multiple-purpose recreational use. We feel these outer front lands and their multiple use contributes considerably to the local economies and resident communities. The solvency of these communities are an absolute must in order to maintain the survival of their local economies. The backcountry user and guest rancher cannot operate without solvent communities. We need their tax base supported services. These outer front lands provide a corridor frame to the present wilderness.

We are a third generation, 11-member family with close to 70 years of operation in the same area. We fought off the great dams that threatened to flood portions of the Bob Marshall. We've stood in defense of the Sun River Game Preserve. We've helped vanish the tin cans and chain saws. We have seen wilderness management progress to be the best it's ever been in our family's history.

I feel this delegation should seek the expertise of Congressman Marlenee. I've seen him personally, both afoot and on horseback in our area. I know he has spoken with area ranchers.

Having neither the money nor the expertise to go to Washington, I am thankful of this opportunity to speak. I hope this delegation will give strong consideration to our proposal. I would rather see this matter not settled at all than settled wrongly. Wilderness designation should not be considered a magic wand to settle the woes of the world. I would rather see one acre of true value wilderness maintained than a thousand of the Alliance's proposed acres.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you very much.

Jack Salmond.

STATEMENT OF JACK SALMOND, CHOTEAU, MONT.

Mr. SALMOND. Before I testify I want the map set up for you. I'm Jack Salmond of Choteau, Mont. I would like to thank you, Montana delegation, for giving me this opportunity to express my viewpoints. The testimony I'm giving here today is on my behalf as well as the landowners who live along the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. I feel qualified to speak on this subject since this is not only the centennial year for Choteau, but also for our family ranch. I am the fourth generation to live on this ranch and my children are the fifth.

With your permission, Senator Melcher, I will enter the written testimony of myself and the other ranchers who could not be here today.

Senator MELCHER. They will all be made a part of the record.

Mr. SALMOND. I would also like to present a map and enter it on the record.

Senator MELCHER. It will be made part of the record.

Mr. SALMOND. If the committee desires to obtain this map, I will make it available. The top of the map is north so you can follow me on down. The dark green area is the 1.5 million acres of the Great Bear/Bob Marshall and Scapegoat wilderness areas. The areas outlined in purple show grazing allotments on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The red lines are vehicle roadways leading into and on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The blackish circles are public campgrounds and one ski area on the Lewis and Clark Forest. The grazing allotments, vehicle roadways and campgrounds, pictures here all lie in the buffer zone of the Lewis and Clark Forest. The history of these lands demonstrates a great need for areas such as this to be managed under the multiple-use concept.

The Lewis and Clark Forest is comprised of 750,000 acres, 50 percent of which is wilderness, and the balance of which we are trying to resolve here today. It is apparent that these remaining lands are being used heavily by the American people. It is where the citizens of America come to enjoy the public domain which they own a part of. In this buffer zone we use the following uses: 9,000 AUM's for livestock grazing, 1 million board feet of lumber for poles and firewood, 117 special-use recreational residences. A typical Fourth of July will find 1,000 people in the Gibson Dam area on the Sun River. It is home for many species of wildlife.

One feature of a wilderness area is its natural definable boundaries. If the present buffer zone becomes wilderness it will become necessary to shift this buffer zone to our private lands, distinguishing our private lands from natural forest. It is difficult to determine where a wilderness boundary exists. The revenue derived from this area and I guess as well from Teton County is under carefully controlled conditions without damaging the environment. The most recent polls indicate that the majority of Montanans are opposed to any more wilderness. Landowners are ready to resolve the wilderness issue. Sufficiency and release language must be a part of any further wilderness legislation. If we can be of any other help, please let us know. Again, thank you.

[The prepared statement with attachments submitted by Mr. Salmond follows:]

Statement of Jack Salmond

Before the

Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water

Regarding: Montana Wilderness Recommendations

Great Falls, Montana

July 9, 1983

Congressman Ron Marlene, Congressman Pat Williams,
Senator John Melcher, Senator Max Baucus,

We represent nearly all of the landowners and ranchers on the Rocky Mountain front in the Lewis and Clark, and Teton counties, ranging from the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to Wolf Creek Canyon. We are concerned with the proposed management changes in these counties, especially in the RARE II Study area. These proposed changes arise from many groups, such as the Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Council, Wildlife Federation, Wilderness Society, etc.. We feel a great percent of these people are misinformed and have little knowledge of the area we settled and live in.

We propose the federal lands adjacent to the Bob Marshall complex on the Rocky Mountain front continue under the current management. We ask that this proposal be concurrent and also go on record in the event of a RARE III Study.

Testimony of Jack Salmond

I am Jack Salmond of Choteau, Montana. The testimony I am giving here today is on my behalf as well as the landowners who live along the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. I also feel qualified to speak on this subject since this is not only the centenial year for Choteau, but also for our family ranch. I am the 4th generation to live on this ranch and my children are the 5th.

At this time, I would like to thank Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams and Congressman Marlene for participating in these hearings and being here today.

The testimony I am giving is the result of several landowner meetings held along the east slope. This past spring a policy was adopted and landowners were given time to comment on the proposals set forth in this testimony. About 35 landowners responded to the proposals. The majority signed the proposals while others gave comment. We consider their signatures to be a confirmation of our position.

It should further be pointed out that these are 35 "ranching units". In reality they represent several families who live on one unit. For example, my unit represents 12 people. These 35 ranches account for nearly all of the private lands along the east slope lying between the Blackfeet Indian Reservation on the north and the Wolf Creek Canyon on the south.

Testimony of Jack Salmond

I hope you realize that we do not have a paid lobbiest or professional group advocating our thoughts, so this will be our only real chance to get any of our concerns on the record. I also want to make it very clear that we have no axes to grind or animosities toward any group. We are merely here to express our view point which seems to have gone somewhat unnoticed.

In reviewing RARE I & II, it seems apparent that the Forest Service did a credible job with their data. Although we may not agree with the wilderness designations, it is time to release other lands from wilderness designation. Congress must act responsibly to resolve the RARE II issue immediately. Since the early 1970's landowners have been subjected to one study after another. At present we have the bear, elk, sheep, goat, deer and raptor studies. We must also contend with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks personnel who are involved in these studies. Will this ever end?

Anyone trying to determine whether or not Montana needs more wilderness must first consider the present status. Over three million acres of land in Montana have been designated wilderness. Nearly half of this amount is at our back door. The Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great bear wilderness areas comprise over 1½ million acres. Contiguous to this area

Testimony of Jack Salmond

is Glacier National Park with its 1 million acres. Here we have 2½ million contiguous acres managed under the concept of wilderness. Of the 750,000 acres in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, we find 385,000 acres or 50% now in wilderness classification. On the Rocky Mountain front is the Sunriver Winter Game Range, 22,000 acres, the Ear Mountain Game Range, about 2,000 acres, the Black Leaf Game Range, around 2,000 acres, and the Nature Conservancy with 7,000 to 8,000 acres. Some of the last four areas involve the purchase of private lands for wildlife and recreational purposes. Landowner's along the east slope are very concerned about the balance between livestock grazing and other land uses.

A large percentage of our private lands also provide wildlife habitat. The wildlife was on our ranch 100 years ago and will be there tomorrow. There lands have always been managed under the multiple use concept. We have always tried to cooperate with sportsmen and agencies in the management of wildlife. For instance, the pilot goat trapping program of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks began on our ranch in 1936. Ranchers were also instrumental in the founding of the Sun River Game Preserve in 1913 and the Sun River Winter Game Range. It was Local area rancher, C.K. Malone who provided the funding for the purchase of the Sun River Winter Range in the late 1930's.

Testimony of Jack Salmond

The buffer zone on the Lewis and Clark Forest is a good example of a multiple use area. About one million board feet of lumber are harvested annually for poles, posts, sawlogs, firewood and houselogs. There are 9,000 AUM's for livestock grazing. Some other uses are: 10 developed campgrounds, 1 developed picnic area, 1 Teton Pass Ski Hill, 117 special use recreational residences, 7 special use resorts, 4 commercial packer corrals, 1 public boat landing, 14 outfitter and guide permits, 86 miles of road and 30 livestock allotments. In the whole Lewis and Clark Forest one finds 975 miles of developed recreational trail. A typical 4th of July would find 1,000 people using the Gibson Dam area on the Sun River.

A poll conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic research in 1982 concluded that, "Montanans define wilderness as a primitive mountain or forest area set aside for wildlife and recreation". Landowners agree with this concept. It is not some area marked by roads, fences, mines, cabins, pipelines, powerlines, telephone lines or other imprints of man. Some recommended wilderness areas have these artifacts of man in them. Most of the BLM lands on the mountain front were at one time considered for homesteading. Because they were not proved upon in the late 1930's they were reverted back to federal ownership. Today many of these cabins are still visible.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 states that wilderness areas

should be at least 5,000 acres in size. Along the east slope we have an area of 196 acres being considered by the BLM. These areas are now removed because of the decision handed down by Secretary of the Interior, James Watt. However, I feel that the BLM could reinstate them as potential wilderness areas. My point is this: Congress sets guidelines, but some agency people don't seem to follow these guidelines.

Landowners are aware that livestock grazing is allowed in wilderness areas. An essential part of livestock grazing is the use of motorized vehicles. One must use vehicles to doctor lame and sick cattle, repair fences, put in spring developments and to spray noxious weeds. All of these activeties would be severely limited under wilderness.

Water from the Lewis and Clark Forest irrigates over 300,000 acres of agricultural land in Teton, Pondera, Lewis and Clark and Glacier counties. In Teton County the only feasible dam site lies in the forks of Deep Creek. Because of the proximity of the dam to proposed BLM wilderness sites, the dam could affect these areas. The conflicts between this dam and the wilderness areas could be substantial if the water project becomes a reality.

By federal law, 25% of the revenue the Forest Service collects from timber sales, grazing, etc. is returned to the states for the counties. In Teton County this amounts to about $8,000. This county also recieves $160,000 in lieu of

taxes from the federal government.

Taxes are a major source of revenue for Teton County. Oil and gas bring in $180,000. The next year the county will recieve additional money from production of the Black Leaf field. Exxon is also planning a 10 million dollar anhydrous plant. What is alarming to residents of Teton County is that in the past two years, taxable valuation has decreased by about 12%. If industry is not allowed to operate in a favorable climate, what will happen to the tax base in our county? Wilderness areas are not palatable to the business community.

Oil and gas play a major role along the east slope. The revenue we obtain for leases is turned over seven times in our community. Despite the problems associated with oil companies in the past, they can be made to act responsibly. On the national forests, they are bonded and monitered constantly. Safe guards can be adopted that will protect the environment and allow oil and gas activity at the same time.

One of the most critical problems facing anyone considering new wilderness areas is defining them with natural barriers. One of the landmarks of the Bob Marshall Wilderness is the easily definable boundaries. If the new wilderness areas are moved out to the forest boundary, this will cause many problems. As a landowner with property next to the forest, I am unable to differentiate most of the time between forest land and my private deeded lands. Our BLM

lands are even more difficult since they are intermingled with private lands. Landowners are very critical of moving the present buffer zone out to the forest boundary. The buffer zone will then fall on our private lands. We do not have the personnel or funds to handle this influx of people.

In conlusion, it is the desire of the landowners to work with the Montana delegation to help resolve the wilderness issue. We now have a good working relationship with the Forest Service. If we can be of any other help, please let us know.

July 2, 1983

To: Jack Salmond, Rancher, Choteau, Montana
in:re: RARE II Hearings

From: Valerie Larson, President, Teton County CowBelles

As president of our local CowBelles, and an active member of both State and National Cowbelles, and Stockgrowers, I've found that the majority of our members support you in your efforts at the RARE II hearings. We especially don't want to include Deep Creek as more Wilderness.

By locking up more land for the sole use of the"rich" and the "reasearchers", it becomes more and more un-balanced, and always in the favor of the "Bureaucratic Army" who are paid by you and I through "Uncle Sugar".

The "users" and "takers" of this world have no need to <u>produce</u> anything. But, as land-owners and the basic taxpayers of the county---<u>we</u> have to <u>produce</u> from the <u>land</u> all that we have as income, both for ourselves <u>and</u> to support the county government through land taxes.

This country was founded in order that private ownership of property would be the rule, <u>not</u> the exception---and, also, the government was to work <u>for</u> the people, <u>not</u> the people work for the government.

As small ranchers, we aren't able to afford either the time or the money to appear in person at the public hearing, so we are depending on you to carry the load, and to show that we, in the cattle industry, are <u>also</u> environmentalists, and <u>do</u> cherish the land. And, we <u>will</u> fight for our way of life.

Sincerely,

Valerie L. Larson

Valerie L. Larson
Box 840
Choteau, Montana 59422

This is a statement from Larry Dellwo, Teton County. I have land adjacent to both gas wells in the Blackleaf area. One well is located on the Blackleaf Game Range, and the other well is located on Cow Creek.

In my opinion the wildlife does not seem to be bothered by the gas wells. During the time the wells were being drilled I saw Mule Deer near both locations. Elk were seen by the crews working on the Cow Creek well during the time of drilling. This Spring I saw elk several hundred yards from the well on the Blackleaf Game Range and on our land located not far from the wells.

I have a cattle allotment on the Lewis and Clark National Forest on the Rocky Mountain Front. There is a shut-in gas well on this allotment. Making the mountain front wilderness will have an adverse effect on my cattle allotment. Revenue from cattle is an important source of income to Teton County and the State of Montana. Another fact to be remembered is that the revenue from oil and gas is also very importantto both Teton County and the State.

LAND MANAGEMENT FOR CONTINUED COMPATIBILITY
on the
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

Prepared by Ranchers and Landowners

1. GRAZING PERMITS

This area is now basically managed for wildlife, excepting some old and established grazing permits. A large number of wildlife herds are supported by ranchers and landowners on private land, and the balance equalizes itself. We feel that more government management under wilderness status of these lands would lead to harsher stipulations or loss of renewed grazing permits. Once there were over 3,000 cattle summered in forest that is now wilderness. We have respectfully seen that number dwindle to the few existing head allowed by permit, and we do not care to see it decline more. We have taken care of the land and intend to continue to do so, but not at a loss of pasture for the cattle that support our families and the cattle industry in our state.

We have other areas of concern which include fencing legalities, water sources, reaching sick cattle in and across new wilderness designations, mineral rights and "let burn" areas near our homes or where we have cattle and other livestock. These animals provide our yearly incomes, a fact urban-minded groups whose livelihoods are not dependent on the land and the grass may choose to ignore.

We are not in favor of changes which may affect our grazing permits. We do not feel that the cow and the wilderness are compatible.

2. TIMBER

Timber and pole cutting have been instrumental in the settling of the entire mountain front. Historically, the few sawmills in the area did not prove economically feasible for continued existence, and most have been abandoned. Any mills now operating are on a small scale and benefit the local populace through sales and available jobs. We feel the area protects itself from large timber industry because there is just not that much available to warrant large scale commercial operations.

The Forest Service has indicated that management of timber and pole cutting will continue with wildlife as its primary concern. Poles are now restrictively cut for barn, fences and corrals. Trees are thinned by wood cutters for use in wood stoves. It is our desire to continue to have the opportunity to utilize and thin timber from the forest; thus, we are not in favor of any management change.

3. PUBLIC USE

The recreational needs of persons not able for various reasons, such as physical or economic, to enjoy the back country are just as important as the needs of those who are able to back pack or ride into wilderness areas. Inflicting wilderness restrictions upon areas these people now can drive to would limit their recreational activities. We feel these lands under present management are providing a multitude of recreational opportunities for all classes of people.

Access to private land surrounded by or reaching into wilderness areas would effectively limit many ranching operations, hunting and recreation. Wilderness restrictions would make moving livestock difficult for an already busy and pressured rancher.

New wilderness designations would also confuse the recreationalist and almost make it necessary to carry a map in order to distinguish private land from wilderness. As it is now, the boundaries are obvious and acceptable to us.

4. GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION

Seismic exploration damage in the area has been greatly reduced over the last few years. We feel this is due to advanced and strict government regulations and landowner awareness. Most of the federal lands now proposed for wilderness designation are now under gas and oil lease and have been for many years. The two acceptable additions (Allan-Neal and Arsenic Peak) are <u>not</u> under gas and oil lease.

5. WILDERNESS VALUES

The basic principles of true wilderness were prescribed by our parents, grandparents and, in some cases, our great-grandparents, who settled the front. It was the rancher who first prescribed the true value of wilderness with the establishment of the Sun River Game Preserve in 1913. Ranchers, led by state legislator and local rancher Tommie Larson, set aside an area of 90,000 acres to be known as the Sun River Game Preserve, designed to balance the growing elk and other wildlife herds with cattle in adjacent grazing areas. This area did not hold the balance for wilderness, wildlife and cattle. Wilderness awareness had been established. The ensuing battle was to start: one which the cattlemen were to lose. Next evolved the Sun River Primitive Area, and cattle were again moved farther east. In 1940 we progressed to the establishment of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and have recently included two additions, Scapegoat and Great Bear. Their boundaries have included some marginal wilderness.

The lands now threatened with wilderness designation are lands that have been multiple use for decades. The area has been grazed, logged, mined, seismographed, and explored for oil. Yet, these lands are still considered pure enough for wilderness by some groups - quite a compliment to the managing agencies and adjacent landowners! We feel any additions, except Allan-Neal and Arsenic Peak additions, would devaluate the theory of wilderness and degrade the purity we have strived to uphold.

At present, the rocky front harbors the largest Mule deer herd in the U.S., the largest Bighorn sheep herd, excluding park herds, the single largest and best managed Elk herd with a high hunter success ratio. We also have one of the largest Grizzly bear populations, excluding parks, illustrating this area is managed predominately and properly for wildlife. This has been accomplished with help and cooperation from the private landowner and rancher.

Wilderness is not for everyone. It should not extend out to frontal lands. You should not drive to its boundaries. You should not view car roads, powerlines,

etc. from its boundaries. Wilderness should not be gained without some physical hardship, the criteria we now have for present wilderness areas.

6. ACCPTABLE WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

The only acceptable additions, in our opinions, to the existing wilderness are two areasequaling 31,000 acres. These two areas are part of proposed wilderness lands in RARE II. These areas would not effect grazing of domestic animals, are roadless, and meet all requirements of wilderness.

The Allan-Neal addition would be historically significant to the area through the expertise of Ralph Allan. He settled in the area in the early 1900's and helped establish early wilderness values. Allan Mountain is named after him and is in the proposed wilderness. Bruce Neal, early pioneer, is considered "The Founding Father of the Sun River Elk Herd." Neal Creek, a creek named after Bruce Neal, runs through the proposed area.

The Arsenic Peak addition is acceptable as the land is pristine and primitive. It is in close resemblance to existing wilderness.

SUMMARY

As stated by Dearborn area rancher and writer Shirley Hicks, "We are people of the soil, working lovers of nature." We are not people who move from one place to another; we live here because we choose to. We have suffered the elements of nature and survived. This is our home, of which we are proud and protective. The theme of wilderness today is no cattle, no roads, no mining, no timber--just beautiful prisine mountains, wild rivers and wildlife. This is how we intend to keep it. The cow and wilderness are not compatible. We intend to manage our ranches, protect our rights as private individuals and landowners, and maintain the wilderness as it is now.

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE Joseph L Dellwo

ADRESS Box 817, Bynum, Montana 59419

DATE March 23, 1983

SIGNATURE Bud Swanson
ADRESS Box 394 Augusta Mont 59410
DATE March 2 - 1983

Don W. Helgo pres.
SIGNATURE Gary E. Murphy Sec } Inter-County-Livestock Assoc
ADRESS Wolf Creek, Mont. 59648
DATE March 2, 1983

SIGNATURE Donald L Anderson
ADRESS Box 217 Dupuyer, Mt 59432
DATE 3/7/83

SIGNATURE Art Wilkins
ADRESS Augusta Mont 59410
DATE March 7, 1983

SIGNATURE William A Goss
ADRESS P.O. Box 181 Augusta, Mt
DATE March 3, 1983

SIGNATURE John H. Kramer Jr
ADRESS Box 362 Augusta Mt. 59410
DATE Mar. 7, 1983

SIGNATURE William S. Radke DVM
ADRESS Augusta Mt
DATE 3/24/83

SIGNATURE Lawrence E Dellwo
ADRESS Box 817, Bynum, Mont. 59419
DATE March 22, 1983

SIGNATURE S. William Mooker
ADRESS Box 283. Augusta, Mt. 59410
DATE 3/24/83

SIGNATURE David L. Dellwo
ADRESS Box 706, Bynum, Mt. 59419
DATE March 23, 1983

SIGNATURE Thomas M Salensky
ADRESS Box 112 Dupuyer, Mt.
DATE 3/3/83

SIGNATURE Gary E Murphy
ADRESS Wolf Creek Mont
DATE March 5, 1983

SIGNATURE [illegible]
ADRESS Choteau Montana
DATE 3-10-83

5 Steinbach Cattle Co
SIGNATURE Buzz Steinbach
ADRESS Wolf Creek, MT
DATE 3/4/83

SIGNATURE L. E. Canfield
ADRESS Wolf Creek, Mont.
DATE 3/7/1983

SIGNATURE Richard J Weisse
ADRESS Augusta Mont
DATE 3-7-83

COMMENTS:
We have enough wilderness we don't need any more
Lets see if we can't save a little money instead of going deeper in debt.

SIGNATURE Mona L Stocker
ADRESS P.O Box 328
DATE March 1st 1983

COMMENTS:
I feel this proposal has been well put together. Lets hope they will get something accomplished.

SIGNATURE Chuck Delaney
ADRESS Wolf Creek, Mont.
DATE 3/2/83

COMMENTS:

We need your help to protect our rights as landowners.
There must be a bumper zone from a lot town area.
Wilderness isn't for everyone, only the very hardy or the rich.
Oil and mineral are needed to provide jobs and energy in this county.
Wilderness should be wilderness but this area is not.

SIGNATURE Don W. Wilson
ADRESS Wolf Creek, MT 59648
DATE 3-4-83

COMMENTS: I believe the land under question is a Wilderness-Area, and scenic explorations and roads should not be allowed! We do not have a cattle permit on the Falls Creek area - but the neighbors do - We own the land adjacent to the Forest Service land & have to keep the fences up - Where would this leave us - if it were a Wilderness-Area? We are also Outfitters! Our father and I hope the day never comes when a road is built thru this area. ——— by Barbara McDonough (Steinbeck Ranch)

There should be no cut in cattle grazing as you can see where the elk are now. Also no new roads should be built. Leave it as it is. [redacted]

SIGNATURE Norma McDonough

ADRESS Wolf Creek, MT. 59648

DATE 7 Mar. 18-83-

COMMENTS:

Livestock and Game Animals Range this one with mutual Benefit. Areas where livestock have been removed Game have declined

SIGNATURE Art Thompson
ADRESS Wolf Creek, MT
DATE March 5, 1983

COMMENTS:

Ranchers and farmers to be successful in their livelyhood must make certain every acre under their control is utilized to its fullest potential. Weed free land with the top soil in place, properly nurtured, provides us with good crops, good livestock, and good wildlife. To abuse the land costs us dearly both in deminished income and a lower quality of life. We must be good conservationists.

Being conservationists by necessity, we know this country far better than anyone else. Certainly we realize the land's proper potential far better than an urban born and bred "conservationist" who is but an occasional visitor here. We live along the Rocky Mountain Front 365 days a year, whether it is 100° in July or -40° in Janurary. We do not come here for just a day or a week to back pack through the hills. We live here because it is special in our hearts and minds, and as an added benefit we can make a living here.

To expand wilderness designation to lands properly qualifying and already under federal control is sensible. But to include lands which have had an economically viable past and which can be put to good use in the future is foolish.

Jon Kantorowicz

SIGNATURE Jon Kantorowicz

ADRESS P.O. Box 195 Wolf Creek, Mt. 59648

DATE 4 March 1993

COMMENTS:

We are an 11 member 2nd generation family operation in outfitting, dude ranching and cattle in the upper Sun River. We feel very strongly about preserving proper Wilderness standards and maintaining a multiple use Front Area!

SIGNATURE Dick Ellis K Bar L Ranch
ADRESS Augusta, Mont
DATE May 15 - 83

COMMENTS:

There has already been too much money spent on the Rare II deal. Now we are apt to be asked to go thru the same thing again, at terrible cost, because of a few do-gooders that don't even live here.

Soap Creek Cattle Co.

SIGNATURE by P. R. Krone Jr. (President)

ADRESS Box 275 Augusta-Mont 59410

DATE March 16-1983

COMMENTS:

We feel that these comments express the views of ourselves and other landowners along the Rocky Mt. front. It is also our hope that these comments will provide guidlines for people who are wanting to create more "Wilderness." If we can be of any further help, please let us know.

SIGNATURE Jack Salwood
ADRESS Choteau, Mt 59422
DATE March 19, 1983

COMMENTS: The Area under Castle Reef that I own has been grazed for at least 70 years and I fel it is not a suitable area to be made into wilderness. Do you realize that if you keep taking area like this, the ranchers will not survive and could go hungry. Who will use all these recreation areas if there is not enough food to go around.

SIGNATURE James H Boadle

ADRESS Box 255 Augusta Mont. 59410

DATE March 3 1983

COMMENTS:

Over the past three decades the area which is now being advised to be considered wilderness has been managed by the rancher and various government agencies through a coordinated effort. These management practices have proven to be outstanding, for three decades have past and this area of land can still be considered an acceptable native area for wilderness. With this kind of management who needs this area considered to be wilderness. The rancherseof today needs these areas for summer grazing and takes excellent care that both domestic and wildlife can both survive and do very well.

Changes are not always good, let us leave things as they are today. The rancher has his grazing area and the wilderness outdoorsman have their area and have managed effectively side by side.

SIGNATURE [signature]

ADRESS P.O. Box 126 Choteau, Montana 59422

DATE April 18, 1983

COMMENTS:

I feel a wilderness area is not wilderness when it is located on areas which are and have been settled for years, and have roads criss-crossing through it.

Some of our older persons who are unable to walk or ride the required miles like to enjoy an outing in the hills as well as the younger, more able people do.

To extend this Wilderness area into the well used and settled areas would be detrimental to the aged who now enjoy Driving, Camping, fishing and hunting in an area which would no longer be available to them if forced to comply with State and Federal Wilderness laws.

SIGNATURE Lina A. Neal

ADRESS Box 293, Augusta Mont. 59410

DATE April 2, 1983

COMMENTS:

I have a problem here. In many areas cows graze wilderness, and I for one do not wish to relinquish my grazing rights just because an area is named wilderness.

The rest I agree with in basic, it seems well written.

Also as a side note. The Lewis & Clark Forest Service is trying to gain a right of way thru deeded land on the North Fork of Dupuyer Creek. I see no need for this access as things are running smoothly as is. I have been in a position of passive resistance for 3 or more years, but now things seem to be coming to a head. I could use some letters to them from someone besides myself.

SIGNATURE Dean States

ADRESS Box 246 Dupuyer, Mont. 59432

DATE April 8, 1983

February 24, 1983

Congressman Ron Marlenee

We represent 95% of the landowners and ranchers on the Rocky Mountain Front in Lewis and Clark and Teton counties, ranging from the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to Wolf Creek Canyon. We are concerned with proposed management changes in these counties, especially in the RARE II Study area. These proposed changes arise from many groups, such as the Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Council, Wildlife Federation, Wilderness Society, etc. We feel a great per cent of these people are misinformed and have little knowledge of the area we settled and live in.

We propose the federal lands adjacent to the Bob Marshall complex on the Rocky Mountain Front continue under the current management. We ask that this proposal be concurrent and also go on record in the event of a RARE III Study.

Jen Bar Ranch Co.
by Roland Mosher
Pres.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Margaret Reeb.

STATEMENT OF MARGARET REEB

Ms. REEB. Gentlemen, in 1978, when the Absorkie/Beartooth Wilderness was designated, 56 of our mining claims were closed up behind a contrived boundary line contrary to the one officially proposed. In that same year, our hand-hewn log bridge by our company over 80 years ago was completely torn out and destroyed. A large barricade of massive boulders was piled up across the road our company had also built nearly a century ago. We were denied access to our private lands with no advance notice or warning given.

As the president of Copper King Mining Co., and on behalf of our nearly 500 stockholders, some of whom are of the fifth generation, I respectfully request that our Montana delegation help us recover our 56 mining claims for the following reasons: The U.S. Forest Service recommended that our Copper King Mining area be excluded from the proposed wilderness "to improve boundary definitions and exclude private lands, because of the high potential for gold, copper and other minerals throughout." This is on 52700 U.S. Government Publication, 95-69. Second, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Montana Bureau of Mines, in their evaluation of the mineral potential of the area, also recommended the importance of our claims for their platinum, cobalt and other minerals. This is on pages 77 through 114, USGS 1391. These three Government agencies planned to investigate and manage our Federal lands by the multiple-use concept, and they all agreed that our group of mining claims should not have wilderness classifications. Third, our Stillwater complex contains the only significant platinum deposit in

America. We all know of the essential needs for platinum for catalytic converters in our automobiles to reduce the vast blankets of smog that shroud our major industries and industrial areas. Additionally, platinum is playing an increasingly important role in the treatment of cancer, particularly lung cancer, one of the most lethal forms. At the present time America is dependent upon Russia and South Africa for its platinum group minerals.

Our property is not in a prospect. It has been highlighted and shown on USGA Forest Service maps as the Copper King Mine. When these claims were originally developed, they made history throughout the history of Montana. Four claims alone were sold for $1 million in 1907. The transaction commanded front-page news in the October 1919 Houston Enterprise and Helena Montana's Daily Record as well on that same date.

In conclusion, ever since our mine was closed behind the wilderness boundary, major corporation revenues have been used to undertake its continued development. Now, here are the letters proving the impracticality of such an understanding taken within a wilderness area. America needs her independence from foreign sources for strategic minerals, and it is for this reason also that our 56 mining claims should be freed from wilderness classification. It is only through the unanimous help, through our esteemed Montana delegation, that this can be accomplished.

Senator MELCHER. Margaret, this is the first time I believe you've testified formally before a committee. I think all of us are familiar with the circumstances. What portion of this land is patented?

Mr. REEB. There are four patented mining claims, patented in 1902.

Senator MELCHER. And the bridge was torn out?

Ms. REEB. Yes, sir.

Senator MELCHER. By the Forest Service?

Ms. REEB. I wouldn't say that.

Senator MELCHER. It was torn out with Forest Service knowledge?

Ms. REEB. I could not answer that.

Senator MELCHER. Were the boulders placed in the road by the Forest Service?

Ms. REEB. The boulders were placed there I think with a massive bulldozer.

Senator MELCHER. By the Forest Service?

Ms. REEB. I cannot say.

Senator MELCHER. Were they placed there with the knowledge of the Forest Service?

Ms. REEB. I can't say.

Senator MELCHER. What forest is it in?

Ms. REEB. Custer National Forest.

Senator MELCHER. I think they were placed there with the knowledge of the Forest Service. We'll ask that they be removed, we'll ask that you be granted immediate access. You have that right and we will see what we can do about making some adjustments. I am familiar with where the boundary was to begin with, I was not knowledgeable that it had been changed, and it was a block on the whole committee of Congress that it was changed

without the knowledge of the principles that are involved. Thank you very much.

Ms. REEB. Thank you very much, Senator Melcher.

Senator MELCHER. Larry Blasing.

STATEMENT OF LARRY BLASING, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL TIMBER OPERATIONS AND ACTING EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, INLAND FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL

Mr. BLASING. Thank you, gentlemen. I am Larry Blasing, director of Federal timber operations and acting executive vice president for the Inland Forest Resource Council. I have previously submitted my written testimony. I would like to devote my time to respond to some of the issues and proposals at this hearing.

We have seen the alternative W proposal surface which would increase the State's wilderness acreage by some 60 percent. When you consider this in comparison to the massive Bob Marshall/Sawtooth/Bitterroot or Absorkie Wilderness areas, you can see that such an increase is unthinkable. It is out of step with the opinion expressed by Montana in public opinion polls, for they have said we have enough, no more, or at least only a small increase. These polls have similar results to those in surrounding States where people throughout the West are saying the same thing.

Alternative W would serve massive destruction to Montana's resource base. We have hurt most people if they reduce the options for them. I emphasize the word "option." They represent labor development. Certainly most of the wilderness areas will not be developed, but with the antidevelopment history it has been promoted as unwarranted. Many witnesses have testified that they want the opportunity to work in Montana, to maintain their job base, and we cannot do that unless we maintain the option to develop our resources.

Soft release as proposed by alternative W will buy us nothing. Soft release could put us right back in another set of hearings exactly like these we are in today in as little as 5 years, and certainly that is not compatible to any of us. During this period it would be simple to say that no development would take place and we have to have a longer period of release to insure some stability of our resource base. We need to resolve as many conflicts as possible. This should include RARE II areas and perhaps some BLM areas.

As legislation develops, we ask that you please communicate with our industry on the individual areas so that we can provide you with impact data on the timber resources. We are presently redoing our existing wilderness position with other user groups. We'll continue to do so through the coming months and we'll advise you of any changes in our position. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. John Cobb.

STATEMENT OF JOHN COBB

Mr. COBB. Hello, my name is John Cobb, and my ranch is right next to the Forest Service below the Renshaw addition there and next to Bench Mark Road. Just the other day we were talking about what to argue about with all four wilderness areas, because we don't want all—what's going to happen 10, 20 years from now,

where are all these people going to go? There are going to be masses of people and nowhere else to go because wilderness constraints exclude certain people and certain activities. And for every person that uses the wilderness now, five and a half uses the Forest Service's adjoining land. We are saying people can't go anywhere. They go on our lands and we are already saturated now. Last year for example, over 1,000 people used our land for recreational activities, 1 out of every 10 for hunting activities, and we can't take that many more people. We are also in effect right next to the game range, and we take care of all these people and all the game at the same time. We are trying to say these people have to go somewhere, and if you keep putting it on us, it's going to hurt the game, it's bad for them. We are trying to say there ought to be more areas that the Forest Service can develop without these other areas.

We're saying that instead of taking land for landscape's sake, we don't need more wilderness. We are willing to take more people on our ranch, but we can't take everybody. That's going to come in the future, and that's what we see is going to happen. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Gary Langley.

STATEMENT OF GARY LANGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. LANGLEY. For the record, my name is Gary Langley, I'm the executive director of the Montana Mining Association which is based in Helena. The Montana Mining Association represents every major producer of mining as well as a number of exploration companies. I would like to address this to the Forest Service recommendations on a number of areas in the Helena National Forest. We agree with the Forest Service that the Nevada Mountain area should be released. It's high in mineral potential. We agree with the Forest Service that the Electric Peak should be released. There is past mining activities in the area and it's within 3 miles of a number of the mining claims. We also agree with the Forest Service recommendations that Camas Creek should be released. We agree with the Forest Service that the Bob Marshall area, that Choteau Mountain be released. We also believe that Teton River, High Peak should be released, and we believe that the extended Deep Creek addition should be released. We believe that the Deep Creek, Tenderfoot, South Tenderfoot should all be released. There is evidence of improved mining technology that will make it possible for exploration and development in the future.

Gentlemen, I'm a second generation Montanan, my grandfather came from Italy in 1910 because he viewed Montana as a land of opportunity. I represent an industry that brought some of the first pioneers to Montana to contribute to the great heritage of our State. It continues to be a major contributor to Montana by providing thousands of well-paying jobs, but it needs a public land base. Please don't impoverish my homeland by turning it into a national park. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Senator Aklestad.

STATEMENT OF HON. GARY ALKESTAD, STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT NO. 6, MONTANA

Senator AKLESTAD. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Marlenee, and Representative Williams, I thank you for this opportunity. I'm State Senator Gary Aklestad representing Senate District 6. Senate District 6 comprises Teton County and other counties, but my involvement here this moning is mainly with Teton County since it is directly involved when we are speaking of existing or expanding wilderness areas. Direct involvement is desired by some people, and I express their concerns that I appeared here today. I think I am safe to say that the vast majority of the people of Montana are sympathetic when it comes to retaining our heritage or protecting our State to its original creation so future generations can enjoy and appreciate the beauty and the vastness of our undiscovered portions of our State. At the same time we need to respect the wishes and concerns of those same people when it comes to making decisions which affect their lives and the lives of their children. Expanding a wilderness areas to the extent proposed will only increase the area of land in Montana which will, for the most part, seldom be used by people, since only the outer perimeter of any isolated area is entered into by human beings. Expanding the wilderness area will take away the existing area of Lewis and Clark National Forest which acts as a buffer zone at this time between the wilderness area and privately owned land, and provides multiple use for everyone.

Just a few of the points that should be brought out if this area is put into a wilderness area that will be eliminated because of the lack of multiple-use concepts. It will be the camping, picnicking, ski areas, resorts, commercial packers, and their corrals, boat landings such as Gibson Dam, we have cattle and sheep grazing in that area which could be eliminated because of the no-vehicle concept. We have a questionable concept of the irrigation dams that are there, can those dams be maintained without vehicles entering into that area? Oil and gas exploration potential, youth conservation camps, timber sales, and I think a very important point is the senior citizens for the most part are locked out of the wilderness area because of the unmotorized vehicle restriction in those areas.

With the elimination of all these activities, it's definitely a negative social and economic impact to the area. One other point that should not be overlooked, we have over 3 million acres of land in the wilderness area at this time in Montana, and we have 2½ million acres approximately just in this area. That seems like a lot of land in one area.

I offer my cooperation and help to achieve what I think are the desires of the majority of the people of Montana, and I thank you for this opportunity to express their wishes.

[The prepared statement of Senator Alkestad follows:]

Wilderness Hearing
Great Falls, Montana
July 9, 1983

The Montana Congressional Delegation

Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Representative Ron Marlenee
Representative Pat Williams

I am State Senator Gary Alkestad representing Senate District 6, a portion of Senate District 6 composed of Teton County which is directly affected when we speak of existing or expanding wilderness areas. It is that direct involvement and the desire by some people that I express their concerns pertaining to expanding wilderness areas that I appear here today. I think I am safe to say that the vast majority of the people of Montana are sympathetic when it comes to retaining our heritage or protecting and maintaining a portion of our state to its original creation so future generations can enjoy and appreciate the beauty and vastness of undisturbed portions of our state. At the same time we need to respect the wishes and concerns of those same people when it comes to making decisions that will affect their lives and their children's lives. It is also that respect for their concerns that I am here today testifying concerning the proposed expansion of wilderness areas. Expanding a wilderness area to the extent proposed will not only increase the area of land in Montana which will for the most part seldom be used by people since only the outer perimeter of any isolated area is entered into by human beings. Expanding the wilderness area will take away the existing area of Lewis and Clark National Forest which acts as a buffer zone at this time between the wilderness area and privately owned land and provides multiple use for everyone. That multiple use covers a wide spectrum of social and economic uses consequently benefitting a multitude of people with different interests. Just a few of these uses that would be eliminated by wilderness designation are:

1. Camping and picnicking
2. Ski areas
3. Resorts
4. Commercial packers and their corrals
5. Boat landings, like at Gibson Dam
6. Cattle and sheep grazing without massive regulations such as no vehicles.
7. The questionability of irrigation reservoirs such as Gibson Dam which holds 105,000 acre feet of water and Diversion which holds 22,000 acre feet. Both areas have many visitors of all ages.
8. Oil and gas exploration potential
9. Youth conservation camps
10. Timber sales
11. Senior citizens for the most part are locked out of a wilderness area because of no motorized vehicles.

Elimination of these activities would not only have a negative social impact since so many more people are involved in these acts under multiple use concept than would be used under wilderness, then there is a definite negative economic impact on the area. Another point that should not be overlooked is there are over 3 million acres of wilderness in Montana, under existing wilderness there is close to 2½ million acres just in the area north and west of Choteau, Montana. That seems like a vast amount of land designated to wilderness in one area. I hope you will listen to the desires of the majority of people in Montana when making your determination. Those desires have been expressed in several polls and especially in a poll conducted by the University of Montana where it showed an overwhelming majority indicated their desires for not expanding a wilderness area. It is time to bring the wilderness controvery to a climax so we in Montana and especially those people directly affected know where they stand when it comes to social and economic decisions. I offer you my cooperation and help to achieve what is desired by the vast majority of the people of Montana. I thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully yours,

State Senator Gary C. Aklestad

Senator MELCHER. That concludes panel No. 3.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I would like to get a better understanding of the intentions of the residents that signed, I'll call it a petition, that signed the petition which Mr. Salmond has entered into the record and which I believe Mr. King sent to the various members of the congressional delegation including myself.

It is important for us to understand how many people in the area would like those adjacent areas used. I don't think it's fair to allow those people the absolute and final say on designations, but they certainly have to be given full consideration, because many of these areas are their backyards. The considerable number of folks that signed this, were signing their agreement with the statement of that of the head of the petition; is that correct?

VOICE. Yes, that's correct.

Mr. WILLIAMS. No mining, no timber, just mountains, wilderness, and wildlife, this is how you intend to keep it. We intend to keep our ranches, protect our rights as private individuals and landowners and maintain the wilderness as it is now. The people that signed this petition want to maintain that area as it is now with no development?

VOICE. They want to maintain the outer front lands as they are managed together under current management. They are quite satisfied with the current management in the outer front now, and they believe that current wilderness that are designated by Congress should be managed as they are managed now.

Mr. WILLIAMS. The proposal for your Deep Creek proposal, the Arsenic Mountain proposal——

VOICE. Yes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. It doesn't seem to me to accomplish that. As I take that proposal and overlay, all of the pending oil and gas leases, I find that your wilderness protects an area where there is no oil and gas leases that have surface occupancy, and you remove from wilderness all of those areas that do have oil and gas leases. Do the people that signed this petition want oil and gas development in the Deep Creek area, because your proposal allows that?

VOICE. We want proper land-use management as it exists today. In the current, there is no oil and gas development in any of the areas in there, and this was our hope and goal that Congress would seek out and give us good solid land use in the area.

Senator BAUCUS. Including oil and gas development?

VOICE. If Congress so desires that to be, we are going to put it in your hands if you would seek out the property-management level of these adjacent lands proposed for the wilderness, putting multiple use with recreational perspective. And we would seek this level without it becoming wilderness, and it would allow for the ranchers' grazing and the various other things that are used out there now.

Mr. WILLIAMS. If we followed your proposal, there would be oil and gas exploration at least throughout 70 percent of the Deep Creek.

VOICE. Right.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

VOICE. Congressman Williams, I think you will find nobody wants anything, there was no development there, nobody is doing

anything there, this is a place that everybody can use for wilderness activities. Nobody wanted these areas, that's one of the areas nobody wanted.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, the people who signed your petition want, according to the head of the petition, they want it to stay wilderness as it is now. There is no development in there now, in fact, there is only one road that goes into the area up Hannah Gulch.

Mr. MARLENEE. Senator, may I pursue this for just a moment. It's my understanding, and I would like to know if it's yours, that they wanted to preserve the options and leave the options open in that area and not have it strictly classified wilderness.

VOICE. That's the intent.

Mr. MARLENEE. So various options are open; is that correct?

VOICE. That's exactly it. We feel it becomes, that is, management options are taken away from us.

Mr. MARLENEE. These gentlemen who appeared before you talking about keeping the management options from a small area, keeping it open, those are some of the concerns we're listening to. If you will look at this map right here, you have 400 miles from this forest boundary. We make no bones about it, this is where the forest ends and the grasslands begin for eastern Montana. Traveling this way, this hits the mountains, and this is the area that's open to them for various recreational opportunities. The area that we have here is now shown in crosshatch, that is now wilderness areas, Indian reservations, and Glacier Park. With the addition of these three wilderness areas, it narrows the recreational opportunities of the nonwilderness user further as you can see by this map. And again, the forest boundary is the edge of the timberline and the edge of the mountains, after that is plains and grass.

At that point, with the additions of these three wilderness areas, we have these three small areas left for all of the people in eastern Montana, the nonwilderness recreationalist. So what we have is 3,674,000 acres that are off limits in that area from the Canadian border right down to the road that runs to Helena; 3,674,000 acres that are off limits to the nonwilderness recreationalist using it, the nonwilderness hunter. Think what that does to the private lands, and this is the question we have to ask ourselves when we consider adding these areas to the wilderness.

As a member of the delegation, I have to give this consideration. What a travesty it is when people want to picnic from Choteau or over here at Fairfield, go out to the mountains, and they find that they can't get in there because there is a wilderness boundary. What a travesty it is when the people from Havre make a weekend trip down here and they find that they cannot get into this area, they cannot get in here with their camper, because they have to fight with their neighbor to find a camping spot. We had better think about it in our considerations and deliberations. We had better think about the future of our children who are now wilderness recreation users from eastern Montana, when they want to come over here, when this area becomes saturated with people and the people that have the private lands along this area get fed up with the people over on their land. It's a little different matter whether we need a wilderness in these areas here, because you can take another road out of town. When you come from eastern Mon-

tana, that is out there on the plains, you either have to go over the mountains or you have to head south into these areas down here. You don't have the opportunity that exists along this front.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. We are going to take a 5-minute break. I would like the next panel to be ready.

[Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.]

Senator MELCHER. The committee will come to order again. Our first name on this panel is Noel Rosetta.

STATEMENT OF NOEL ROSETTA, AUDUBON REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HELENA FOREST CONSERVATION COALITION

Mr. ROSETTA. Senator Melcher, members of the Montana delegation. I am testifying as Audubon representative to the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition of about 1,800 members. We support alternative W to set aside 2.2 million acres of national forest in Montana for wilderness. Our special support is for the wilderness proposals on the Helena Forest.

We believe wilderness offers the most enduring way to protect habitat for elk survival; furthermore, it is the best way we know to give watersheds protection necessary for clean, clear streams and to preserve a few places where people can find peace and quiet. Finally, as I shall point out, this makes good economic sense.

In the 1950's and 1960's when timber was easier to reach and more roadless areas were present, there was less conflict between elk and logging and roading. Then the elk simply moved further back into the roadless areas. Now, the Forest Service, under pressure from Washington, is building more roads and selling more timber, and these activities are encroaching on the elk and on other wilderness benefits.

Logging in the Helena Forest is not a productive enterprise; in fact, the industry must be coaxed to take on Helena timber sales by offers of substantial subsidies. For example, the Helena Forest plans to build 130 miles of new timber roads over the next 5 years at an annual cost of $500,000 to $600,000, even though the timber will likely bring in less than $100,000 a year. Eventually, plans call for 2,500 or more miles of new timber roads. Each new mile obligates tax money to pay maintenance costs of $100 to $300 a mile a year for the life of the road. The public has not asked for these roads, in fact, our Coalition believes they have harsh impacts on wildlife and watershed, reduce the quality of elk hunting, and stop wilderness recreation.

On timber sales alone, sale preparation, slash disposal, erosion protection, and reforestation cost $60 to $90 per million board feet. But over the last 14 years, timber sales have returned an average of only $5.55 per million board feet, or have lost $55,000 to $85,000 for every million board feet of timber sold. Even ignoring road construction, logging on the Helena Forest costs the taxpayer $1 to $2 million a year to get back about $100,000.

On the other hand, the tourist and recreation industry pumps about $1 billion into hundreds of communities each year. Tourists and recreationalists come to see unspoiled scenery, to fish, hunt, explore, and relax in Montana. Like it or not, wilderness is the reason quality fishing and hunting is still available today. And I

have yet to see a poll where tourists visit Montana to look at clearcuts.

In summary, then, on the Helena and other eastside forests, the recreation industry is thriving while logging is not. However, it has not been the intent of Congress in either the Multiple-Use Act or the National Forest Management Act to compel the growing of timber on sites so marginal that there are large annual deficits. The intent is to grow trees commercially on the most productive sites. If we are to invoke release language for wilderness, we should also invoke release language for unproductive timber-growing sites. Then let us save those sites which have high value for watershed, recreation, and wildlife. The least expensive and best way is through wilderness protection or, in some cases, roadless management.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Glenn Phillips.

STATEMENT OF GLENN PHILLIPS, ON BEHALF OF THE LEWIS & CLARK ARCHERS ASSOCIATION OF HELENA

Mr. PHILLIPS. Good morning. For the record, my name is Glenn Phillips from Helena. I'm here today, Senator, representing nearly 200 members of the Lewis & Clark Archers Association of Helena. Our club is also an affiliate of the nearly 2,000 member Helena Forest Conservation Coalition and we strongly support the activities of that organization. We certainly appreciate the opportunity to be represented here today and to express our views on Montana's remaining roadless areas.

As sportsmen and sportswomen who choose to pursue our sport with somewhat primitive weaponry, it should come as no surprise to you that we also favor engaging in our sport in undisturbed, quiet, primitive settings. To us, and I am sure I speak for other hunters as well, hunting is more than pursuing and killing animals. Scenic vistas, wildflowers and appreciation for nature and natural places all contribute to the quality of the experience.

The Helena Forest encompasses some of the finest remaining roadless recreational land in the State of Montana; it supports excellent herds of elk and mule deer. However, our reason and need for being here today is to express our concern over the rate at which these roadless areas are disappearing. Not too many years ago bowhunters and the hunting community in general favored additional access to roadless lands, however, we have all too soon reached a point of diminishing returns. Access is now so convenient in some areas of Montana that most elk harvest occurs during the first week of the rifle season. Mature trophy animals are all but absent from these populations. Because of this, some hunting districts in southwestern Montana now allow rifle hunting for branched antlered bulls only and are presently closed to archery hunting altogether. There has been some attempt by the Forest Service to mitigate this problem by closing roads, however, closing roads does not remove them from view nor does it suddenly rearrange the landscape to its former condition. What I am speaking of now and what our group is desperately trying to preserve in Montana are the remaining remnants of undisturbed lands that

provide quality recreational experience. We do not want to hunt elk from a road or in a clearcut or to be forced to undergo additional hunting restrictions.

We wish to point out that many timber sales on the Helena and other Montana forests, located on the east side of the Continental Divide where precipitation is much lower than on the west, are at best marginal compared to sales on more productive forests located nearer to the coast. Timber harvest on east side forests also require much larger disturbances per unit of timber harvested. For example, an average acre of land in the timber base on the Kootenai Forest produces four times as much timber as similar acreage on the Beaverhead. We argue then why should we be forced to give up something of unusual value for so very little in return.

Senator, we appreciate your efforts in obtaining wildlife management area designation for the Elkhorn Mountains, an area of outstanding recreational quality, however, it is our understanding that this designation is by administrative ruling and is not congressional. As such, there is some doubt in our minds as to its permanence. To our knowledge, the only existing guarantee of lasting roadless recreational opportunity is congressional wilderness designation. However, we also feel that the wilderness issue needs to be settled without RARE III. We support a statewide, soft release, RARE II bill, and feel that alternative W as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association is fair to all concerned, releasing many areas for development while at the same time preserving the best remaining roadless areas. The proposed areas on the Helena, including Nevada Mountain, Blackfoot Meadows, additions to the Gates, and the Mount Baldy-Camas Creek area all have tremendous wildlife values and provide outstanding quality roadless recreational opportunities for archers and other recreationalists. These areas would be worth preserving even if they had outstanding timber values, but they do not. These areas would be worth preserving even if they had oil and gas potential, however, they were all given a rating of zero in the RARE II EIS. We urge the delegation, in your deliberations over wilderness, to take into account the growing public demand for quality recreational experiences that can only be met by setting aside for all to enjoy our best remaining undisturbed lands.

I again express my appreciation to the delegation for this opportunity to express the views of the Lewis & Clark Archery Association. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Ken Knudson.

STATEMENT OF KEN KNUDSON, MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. KNUDSON. Mr. Chairman, members of the Montana congressional delegation. Thank you all for being here, again, today, it's good to see you all here in Montana for this important hearing.

My name is Ken Knudson, I'm here today representing the Montana Wildlife Federation in support of conservationist's alternative W, which calls for the addition of 2.2 million acres to Montana's wilderness heritage while releasing over 3 million acres to multi-

ple-use management. The Montana Wildlife Federation feels that while this proposal may be a reasonable compromise between development and preservation, it may not be sufficient to perpetuate the present levels of certain wildlife populations in our State, these are the wildland-dependent species: Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, the majestic elk, and grizzly bear. In the lower 48 States, you will not find larger or more diverse populations of these animals anywhere outside of Montana. It is no coincidence, or it doesn't take much study to conclude, that the reason why Montana is head and shoulders above the rest of the Nation in the density of these species is because we also still have the largest remaining tracts of wildlands to be found anywhere in America outside of Alaska. However, with every road, mine, clearcut or other form of development, fragile, irreplaceable security areas disappear and eventually, so do the wildland-dependent animals. Therefore, in the decision for wilderness versus release to multiple-use management, Montana Wildlife Federation supports wilderness until and unless public land managers or industry representatives can demonstrate, first, that fir and spruce trees will successfully regenerate at high elevations which is where most of the roadless areas still remain, second, that the extremely high cost to build roads into the steep and rugged terrain that is typical of most of the remaining roadless areas is economically justifiable to all taxpayers, third, that the hardrock mining industry can or even will take the initiative to reclaim the biological wastelands caused by past and present mining ventures that presently cover thousands of acres of land and hundreds of miles of streams that were once fish and wildlife habitat, fourth, that there is true potential or even a trend toward a significant discovery of oil or gas in wildlands that make up only about 5 percent of our State, when hundreds of test wells surrounding these areas have nearly all come up dry, fifth, that public land managers are willing to maintain road densities in multiple-use areas below levels of half a mile per square mile.

The Montana Wildlife Federation realizes, of course, that resource extraction industries have and will continue to be a vital part of our State's economy, but maintaining the integrity of the last remaining wild country in Montana will not make or break these multinational corporations. However, entry into these areas and the resulting irrevocable disturbances to their fragile biological systems would significantly impact their wildlife and recreation values, in turn affecting other important and increasingly significant locally owned Montana industries, those involving tourism and nonmechanized outdoor recreation. We are sitting on goldmines when you consider the lure of wild country bringing people and their dollars to visit what they no longer have in their own States or nations. It is simply a matter of supply and demand. Nobody anywhere is making more wild country, and we have more of it in Montana than just about anywhere else.

I feel a great deal of empathy for Montanans who are presently out of work in the timber and mining industries. I hope these people all realize, however, that the center of their problems as well as the economic problems of the rest of us is not at this hearing where we are discussing the fate of a few million acres of marginally productive land, but rather it is in Washington, D.C., in the

form of the tyrannical economic policies of the Reagan administration.

The existence of wilderness never has and never will be the cause of a recession in the timber industry or the oil or mining industries. On the contrary, the existence of stable wildland-related industries will provide a certain amount of economic stability to the boom and bust cycles that these resource extraction industries have brought and will continue to bring to Montana.

The Montana Wildlife Federation certainly agrees that a solution is needed concerning the final fate of the nearly 6 million acres in our State that still remain without roads, mines, clearcuts, or other characteristic marks of human encroachment. However, as was pointed out earlier, from a wildlife standpoint, the Montana Wildlife Federation only hopes that the lands identified within alternative W will be sufficient representatives of what still remains of the wildlands of Montana to insure the perpetuation of the wildland-dependent species of our State. Let there be no doubt that the decision before this delegation will be the most significant public land use decision that you or any other State's delegation will ever face. For the benefit of the wildlife that is so dependent upon wild country, and for the people who enjoy and appreciate this important part of being Montanans, the Montana Wildlife Federation hopes that this delegation will support, as a minimum, the lands identified within alternative W to be added to what is left of the best of our State.

Mr. Chairman, I apologize for taking over my time limit. I have four letters from people from Helena, also supporting alternative W.

Senator MELCHER. They will be entered into the record.

[The letters follow:]

Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Williams
Representative Marlenee

July 9, 1983

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

My name is Donald James Reed. I reside at 406 Chaucer in Helena. I would like this letter to be a part of the official hearing record on a statewide wilderness bill for Montana.

As a second generation Montanan, I have long valued and utilized our existing system of wild lands. I support the additions to that system embodied in Alternative W, and encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to do the same.

Of particular interest to me are the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I support the following additions to the Bob Marshall complex: Swan Front, Monture Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, and Falls Creek-Silver King. These areas have high wilderness value and, I believe, are best placed under the protection of official wilderness designation.

I am particularly familiar with the Falls Creek-Silver King area, most of which was recommended for wilderness designation during RARE II. The wildlife values of this area are tremendous. On one occasion last year, I encountered a sow grizzly and two cubs in the Silver King area, outside the present wilderness boundaries.

Again, I support Alternative W and the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and encourage the delegation to do the same.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Donald James Reed

Donald James Reed
406 Chaucer
Helena, MT 59601

Stewart Allen, Ph.D.
440 North Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

July 8, 1983

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirkesen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing because of my serious concern for the future of Montana's wilderness, and the final resolution of the near-endless RARE II process. I think there's one thing that everyone can agree on--that the future management of these lands must be decided soon.

As an avid user of Montana's wilderness, I am personally concerned. The main reason I choose to live in Montana is because of the abundant opportunities for wilderness recreation. I have become intimate with wild areas throughout the West and Alaska, and think that Montana has some pretty special, unique wildlands--including places like the Deep Creek area, where I once hiked through a blinding October snowstorm over Headquarters Pass, and down to the green valley below.

However, my interests extend beyond personal involvement. As a Ph.D. in the field of recreation management, and one who has published extensively on wilderness issues, I have a great professional concern for RARE II areas. There is no question that wilderness areas--as well our National Parks--contribute very importantly to tourism. People visit Montana because it is different from other states, and one of the reasons it's different is because there's so much of it left.

Testimony on the direct economic value of wilderness designation, and its contribution to the economy, will probably be presented to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. However, it is important not to overlook the indirect economic values of Montana wilderness. Economists recognize that natural resources have values above and beyond peoples' direct use of them; option, existence, and bequest values are the most important of all.

Option value is the value we place on a resource because we may wish to visit there in the future, and see it as it is now. Bequest value stems from our desire to have future generations be

able to see wildlands. Existence value is the benefit some people get just from knowing that wilderness exists, irrespective of anyone's future use of it.

Study after study has shown that these values are considerably more important to people than direct use values. As you know, the recent report by Ron Sutherland, written as part of the Flathead Basin EIS study, demonstrated that the indirect recreational values of Flathead Lake were far higher than its direct use values.

The relationship between these economic values and the RARE II process is clear. Montana will never be able to expand the amount of existing wildlands in the State; one can only hope to preserve some of what is left. Many of these RARE II areas, such as Deep Creek and other Bob Marshall additions, are the best of what's left in Montana. As the number of potentially preservable areas diminishes, so does their economic value, which will ultimately be more important than short-term development gains.

A central focus of measures such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Montana Environmental Policy Act, and the Major Facility Siting Act, is to be sure that short-term economic gains of development are carefully weighed against more indirect, long-term impacts.

I believe that a properly done cost-benefit analysis would show that the values of wilderness designation would be greater than those gained from releasing these lands for non-wilderness uses. I would therefore urge you to support Alternative W. If this is not politically feasible, I would hope that you favor a compromise measure that designates as much Wilderness as possible. The additions to the Bob Marshall deserve particularly close attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please enter my letter into the Senate hearings record.

Sincerely,

Stewart Allen

Stewart Allen, Ph.D.

Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Williams
Representative Marlenee

July 9, 1983

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

I would like this letter to be a part of the official hearing record on a statewide wilderness bill for Montana.

I have long valued and utilized our existing system of wild lands. I support the additions to that system embodied in Alternative W, and encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to do the same.

Of particular interest to me are the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I support the following additions to the Bob Marshall complex: Swan Front, Monture Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, and Falls Creek-Silver King. These areas have high wilderness value and, I believe, are best placed under the protection of official wilderness designation.

I am particularly interested in the Deep Creek area. The wildlife values of this area are tremendous. The largest herd of bighorn sheep in North America, the Sun River elk herd, grizzlies, deer and mountain goats all regularly move between the Deep Creek area and the existing Bob Mashall Wilderness.

In my opinion, the recreational and hunting values of this area far outweigh the area's potential for oil, gas, or timber development. The area has historically been used as wilderness regardless of its legal designation. I encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to include Deep Creek as an integral part of the Bob Marshall.

Again, I support Alternative W and the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and encourage the delegation to do the same.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Wratten
521 South Sanders
Helena, Montana 59601

Testimony for the Congressional Hearings on the Bob Marshall Completion Bill.

I support including Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks,, Falls Creek/Silver King areas as well as much of the Swan Front and Monture Creek as possible in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

We should make this world-famous wilderness as large as possible to meet the increased demand for wilderness-bassed recreation.

I'm sure that the majority of Montanans and nonresidents would strongly support such a move.

W.A. Schneider
157 Fairway Street
Helena, MT 59601

W. A. Schneider

Senator MELCHER. Gary Ingman.

STATEMENT OF GARY L. INGMAN, NEVADA CREEK CONCERNED SPORTSMEN

Mr. INGMAN. I'm Gary Ingman, a third generation Helena native and I am representing a group of about 75 Helena-area citizens who call themselves the Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen.

Our group came into being in the fall of 1981 when we organized in response to the Helena National Forest's announcement of planned timber harvests in the 58,000-acre Nevada Mountain RARE II area. During our organization and at public meetings held by the USFS regarding the proposed timber sales, it became apparent that the Nevada Mountain area along the Continental Divide northwest of Helena was indeed quite popular with hunters, hikers, and recreationalists from as far away as Billings and Polson. At an initial public comment-gathering meeting held by the Lincoln Ranger District on two of the timber sales, between 75 and 100 people attended to express opposition to the sales and plead for status quo management of the area. In addition, the Lincoln Ranger District received countless letters protesting development of the area.

Since that meeting in January 1982, through our affiliation with the 2,000-member Helena Forest Conservation Coalition, we have actively participated in the forest planning process and have had input into the Helena National Forest plan with the inclusion of our Citizen's Alternative, High Amenity Alternative. The Helena National Forest supervisor's office has been generally receptive regarding our recommendations for management of much of the Nevada Creek-Nevada Mountain area. At a May 18 meeting, the Helena National Forest announced to the HFCC and industry that the tentative land allocation under the preferred alternative will exclude much of the area from the regulated timber base presumably because of the poor economics of accessing the limited timber

in the rough terrain. Several timber sales which had been planned will be dropped.

The Nevada Mountain country supports an abundant wildlife population. The elk herd in that portion of the Continental Divide and the surrounding lower elevation mountains has grown to nearly 1,000 animals from a 1930's plant of 25 animals. And wolverine, cougar, and black bear are plentiful. Grizzly presence in the area was documented by the USFS in 1981.

In consideration of the questionable timber values, the highly valued wildlife resources, the popularity of the area adjacent to a major population center and the documented extensive public opposition to development of the area, it seems that designated roadless management is a fitting alternative for the Nevada Mountain area. There is no surer safeguard to the area's preservation than to protect it under the wilderness system.

In closing, the Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen and the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition wish to express their support and urge your support of the Montana Wilderness Association's Alternative W. We support soft release of other appropriate nonwilderness RARE II areas.

I would be happy to fly the Nevada Creek-Nevada Mountain country with you at your convenience to discuss firsthand the area's qualities. I am attaching an additional résumé outlining some of the Nevada Mountain area's unique features. Thank you for your time.

[The résumé follows:]

UNIQUE QUALITIES OF THE UPPER NEVADA CREEK-NEVADA MOUNTAIN AREA WARRANTING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING

Proposed timber sales in upper Nevada Creek and adjacent drainages along the Continental Divide, northwest of Helena, have caused a great deal of concern among long-time users of this area. It is the expressed opinion of many of these sportsmen that this area, for several reasons, is unique to the Helena National Forest, and should therefore receive special consideration and protection under the Wilderness System.

This uniqueness is attributable to the following facts:

(1) Upper Nevada Creek and adjoining country to the south (Gleason Creek, Nevada Mountain and Black Mountain) comprise the largest roadless area remaining within the Helena National Forest along the Continental Divide (outside of wilderness areas).

(2) This area consists of prime wildlife habitat and supports one of the largest elk herds in the Helena National Forest, as well as several rare species including wolverine, mountain lion, and grizzly bear. The presence of these animals can only be attributed to the undisturbed nature of the area.

(3) This large roadless area is unique in that it is largely accessible from several points around its periphery which can be driven to under most conditions. Wilderness quality hunting and hiking experiences are available to those willing to walk even short distances. An extended pack trip or overnight camping is not necessary, and day hikes are the rule.

(4) Contained within this area are the two highest peaks to be found along some 50 miles of the Continental Divide: Nevada Mountain and Black Mountain. From these 8,000+ foot vantage points the mountains of the Lincoln-Scapegoat, Mission, Flint Creek and Elkhorn ranges are dramatically visible. This panorama is difficult to achieve elsewhere, and would certainly be of great aesthetic value to users of the proposed Continental Divide Trail if the visual quality of the surrounding area is not drastically altered by timber cuts and roads.

(5) The Nevada Creek watershed presently provides the high quality water necessary for the survival of native Bull Trout, which have been observed spawning in the creek. Such habitat is becoming increasingly rare due to man's impacts on water quality.

It seems very likely that any road construction or timber harvest allowed in this area would destroy its highly unique character. Far greater benefit can be derived by the public if this section of the Continental Divide is allowed to remain in its current state through preservation under the Wilderness System.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Timothy Meloy?

STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY J. MELOY, ELKHORN CITIZENS ORGANIZATION

Mr. MELOY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the delegation. I'm an attorney in Helena, and I'm here as an interested citizen representing the Elkhorn Citizens Organization, which is a 200- or 300-member group, people dedicated to the best interests of the Elkhorn Mountain Range which lies on the southside doorstep of Helena, Mont.

I apologize for having no hard data to present on these issues, nor have I had any firsthand experience in the areas, however, I do feel obliged to make some recommendations to you. As most of us do not have the opportunity to obtain firsthand knowledge and experience, we rely on the expertise of others. I have found that my personal, professional approach to land use closely aligns with the proposals of alternative W. I am therefore here to encourage your support of that alternative W.

I understand the scholars tell us that Congress is empowered to enact what is called sufficiency legislation. I would concur that this would be an appropriate method, depending entirely of course upon how Congress reacts to the recommendations. As far as the release issue is concerned, it seems only fair and proper to make that all released lands be reevaluated at some point in time. I believe 10 to 15 years is long enough to wait for that reevaluation.

My special interest, as I indicated at the outset, is the Elkhorn Mountain Range. It has been a very integral part of mine and my family's life for over 30 years. I would point out that the Elkhorns are currently designated for wilderness study and remain in that designation as of this date, however, the Forest Service has recommended nonwilderness for the entire area. And as you probably noted, alternative W does not include the Elkhorns. I would hasten to point out that the Forest Service by date did find very high wildlife and wildlife habitat resource value. In fact, they recommended to Congress that the Elkhorns be managed with wildlife and wildlife habitat as a primnary resource value.

I believe this is a very unique approach. We cautiously concur in this approach to alternative W, however, we want to emphatically encourage upon the committee and the Congress that if Congress does not accept the wildlife management concept of if the Forest Service does not implement it, then we maintain our preference for some wilderness designation for the area.

Thank you very much for coming and listening to us, and I sincerely wish you well in making appropriate decisions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Meloy follows:]

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Recommendations to Congress	)))	Testimony of Timothy J. Meloy, on behalf of the Elkhorn Citizens Organization

Mr. Chairman:

For the record, my name is Timothy J. Meloy. I am an attorney residing in Helena, Montana, and am here representing myself and the Elkhorn Citizens Organization, of which I am a member.

While I have neither personally visited nor evaluated for suitability most of the six million acres of roadless areas in question, I have determined that the concerns and interests of those that have, as expressed through their proposed "Alternative W" most closely fit my personal and professional philosophy on public land use.

I would therefore offer to this subcommittee my support for Wilderness designation for those areas identified in that "Alternative W." I would further concur that,if such areas are so designated, the RARE II evaluation may be deemed sufficient. As for those areas to be released, it would seem only logical and fair that they always be subject to reconsideration or reevaluation, and that a 15 year period seems long enough to await such reevaluation.

As to my special interest in the Helena National Forest, I would direct your specific attention to the Elkhorn Mountains, a 77,000 acre range on the southeast doorstep of Helena. This range presents somewhat of an anomaly to the planning process in that it has been made and currently remains a Wilderness Study Area, has been recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service, and as a matter of fact is not presently included in "Alternative W." However,

I hasten to point out that the Forest Service did find such extremely high wildlife and recreational values that they did in fact recommend management with wildlife and wildlife habitat as the principal resource value.

In view of this recommendation, we cautiously concur that this approach if carried out may be a reasonable alternative if Congress does not find Wilderness suitability. And therein lies "Alternative W's" ommission of the Elkhorns. However, we emphatically reserve our preference for and argument on behalf of Wilderness designation should the wildlife management not be approved by Congress or implemented by the Forest Service.

Thank you for devoting your personal time to conducting these hearings and considering the testimony. I wish you well in making the most appropriate decisions.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Meloy

Timothy J. Meloy
1324 9th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Let's see. Bill Dunham is here.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM H. DUNHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, UPPER MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED

Mr. DUNHAM. Gentleman, I'm here today representing the Upper Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a member of the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition. We support alternative W to add 2.2 million acres to Montana wilderness. Our specific interest is the addition of those areas that would be added to the Helena National Forest as wilderness.

In many cases wilderness provides the best possible conditions for a high quality wild trout fishery. Montana has this type of fishing in some places now, but this is possible only when streams are clear and cold and flows are stable. Such natural fisheries are steadily decreasing in the West because of the intrusion of logging roads and timber cutting into the headwaters areas.

The wilderness shield is the best guarantee that quality fishing in Montana will continue, and it makes good economic sense, too. A 1982 survey by the State Department of Commerce indicates that a big drawing card for tourism in Montana is the quality fishing and the scenic beauty. Tourism and travel bring in $1 billion a year to Montana.

Logging, on the other hand, is an expensive program in the Helena National Forest as well as other eastside forests. We understand that the Helena National Forest receives only $5 or $6 per thousand board feet of timber on the average, but it costs $60 to $90 for sale preparation, slash disposal, and tree planting, and so forth. The Forest Service also builds the roads to reach these timber sales out of taxpayer funds. In recent years it has been receiving about half a million dollars a year for this kind of road construction. Despite intensive efforts to make timber cutting an important activity in the Helena and other eastside forests, they provide less than 1 percent of the total annual national timber cut.

We point this out because of the pressure to put release language into forthcoming wilderness legislation. Logging may be a highly productive activity on some sites, but not on others. At the same time, such relatively unproductive timber sites may have high values for recreation, fisheries, wildlife, and watershed quality.

We hope that some kind of wilderness consideration will be allowed to continue in the future because it provides a deliberative basis for carefully weighing both environmental and economic consequences. If this is permitted, the natural winnowing process will permit the most satisfactory long-range solutions. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

We have Lance Olsen.

STATEMENT OF LANCE OLSEN, GREAT FALLS CLUB

Mr. OLSEN. My name is Lance Olsen, and I'm here to represent the Great Falls Club and to talk to you about grizzly bears in particular, and in more particular about the fact it is the largest population of grizzly bears that remains in the lower 48 States. Their population is in the greater parks and wilderness areas to the south and also they occupy undesignated wilderness areas adjacent

to the designated wilderness areas. The largest grizzly population is currently the largest in the country, two or three times as large as the next largest, which is the population in Yellowstone. But because it's the largest, we regard it by no means as the safest one. Under the circumstances, we think it could be the first to go.

Roading of the adjacent lands would be a premier way to risk this population. There are some research evidences which I think everyone in this room knows, that the five grizzlies killed this spring were killed near roads. John Dodd several years ago said of the Yellowstone Park's 180 grizzly bears, 75 percent were killed in areas of intensive use outside the park.

Areas adjacent to designated park areas and wilderness areas are very important. Designation of adjacent undesignated wilderness areas, as I regard it, could have a significant effect on protecting and maintaining that population, probably the key reason, the road areas aren't the largest population, and would be for oil and gas exploration and primarily for gas. The values are a conflict between wilderness and natural gas, therefore, I want to comment about the natural gas potential. In 1979, the only best estimate I have heard is the overthrust belt which is between Canada and Mexico, a potential of 200 trillion cubic feet. The United States is using about 20 cubic trillion feet a year, which would be about a 10-year supply between Canada and Mexico. Montana would have a much smaller portion of that gas, the Rocky Mountain Front would have a very tiny portion of that natural gas.

We are looking at very marginal energy values and very important wildlife values. I want to add, too, Congressman Marlenee mentioned how much of the Rocky Mountain Front would be lost for recreational potential for eastern Montana people who want motorized recreational or nonrecreational use. There would still be several hundred, about 2,000 acres of land available under the Bob Marshall Alliance recommendations, which would be available for recreation. If even a significant portion of that were left over for recreation, it would be the largest development recreational campground in North America. So I'm not sure that nonwilderness recreation would be jeopardized, and I'm not sure that the oil and gas industry would be jeopardized. But I do see some clear evidence that grizzlies and wildlife values would be jeopardized.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

That concludes this panel.

Now panel No. 5.

The first one of this panel would be Judith Carlson.

STATEMENT OF JUDITH CARLSON, NEWMAN RANCH

Ms. CARLSON. I'm Judith Carlson, and I'm speaking for the Newman Ranch and substituting for Larry Delwall. I would like to give you a report. The Newman Ranch helped with the Great Plains Agreement in 1974 with four Government agencies, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Teton County Conservation District and local ranchers compromised the team. In 1977, a Great Plains contract was also instituted. Through the dedicated efforts of these agencies' personnel and the local ranchers, great steps have been

accomplished in range improvement. Over the past, these areas have been under precise management for the retention of our heritage. The ranches are still today able to be considered for wilderness. This shows to me that you have the best system now, and changing it to wilderness is not in the best public interest.

In the area called Chicken Coulee (phonetic) there are some established roads, and seismic and mineral development has been abandoned. Mr. Newman, owner of the Newman Ranch, is very conservation minded, and he is going to cooperate and maintain these areas under a high level of management. These levels should not be turned over to wilderness. The public would not benefit by this area being wilderness.

This great free country we live in with the freedom we have today, which was nurtured by the hearbeat of this Nation, the farmer and rancher, who managed these natural resources given to us by God, and have done a good job. the Government needs to continue with this proven record and these programs. Let us leave the boundaries of wilderness where they now are. I would like to express my thanks for being able to speak to you today.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Gerald Cobell and Joseph Jessepe.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH JESSEPE, PLANNER, BLACKFEET TRIBE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. JESSEPE. My name is Joseph Jessepe, I'm the planner for the Blackfeet Tribe Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department. The Blackfeet Tribe will actively resist any sufficiency language pertaining to RARE II within the State of Montana at this time. We take this position because of the unique and unresolved relationship which exists between the Blackfeet Nation and the lands of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Due to the reserved rights granted in the treaty of 1896, we cannot sit idly by and accept any action which might jeopardize these rights. The Blackfeet Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department is of the opinion that the seeded strip which encompasses these lands east of the Continental Divide, north of the Bridge Creek and north of the Glazier National Park has not been adequately reviewed for inclusion to the national wilderness system. We believe the special treaty rights which have never been ratified have prevented us from properly inventorying these lands for their wilderness suitability. Also, we think this clouded situation has resulted in an unwritten policy of the U.S. Forest Service which recognizes our special rights, and therefore, has chosen not to expend the required amount of time and money to adequately gather the data to give a proper opinion of the suitability of these lands.

At this time we would also like to formally object to what we believe is a higher than usual tolerance to oil and gas seismic exploration activity. We think not enough information has been gathered on the wildlife or the esthetic resources of this particular area to justify such a high level of activity. We request this special area be managed by any and all means to preserve the rights of the Blackfeet people. We can tolerate a designation of special management area for fish and wildlife or temporary wilderness. We can

support nothing less than that at the present time. Whatever Congress does should be in view of the special rights which we possess in this area.

We would like to respectfully request that this committee notify the Blackfeet Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department of all future meetings and decisions regarding these lands. Thank you for your time in allowing me to speak.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Van Elmore.

Mr. COBELL. Excuse me, I——

Senator MELCHER. I called you earlier and you didn't speak first. Go ahead, Gerald.

STATEMENT OF GERALD COBELL, ADMINISTRATOR, BLACKFEET TRIBE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. COBELL. I'm Gerald Cobell, and I am the administrator of the Blackfeet Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department. I am here to represent the interests of the Blackfeet people.

We are extremely concerned about the future management of the Lewis and Clark Forest. Under the agreement of 1896, the U.S. Government purchased what is now called Glacier National Park and Lewis and Clark Forest. However, our great ancestral leaders reserved certain rights within these ceded lands for future generations. Hence, the reason I am here 87 years later trying to insure that these special reserved rights are not threatened or infringed upon.

These reserved rights are: To go upon these lands, to take timber from these lands for domestic uses, to hunt and fish upon these lands. President Theodore Roosevelt later in 1908 issued an executive order calling the ceded lands the Blackfeet National Forest.

I am hereby appealing to this congressional delegation to support the official recognition of the Blackfeet's reserved rights in the Blackfeet National Forest or what is now termed the ceded lands, and joint management of this area by the Blackfeet Tribe and the Forest Service.

For example, right now seismic activity going on within the ceded lands is totally disrupting big game populations, thereby negatively impacting our hunting rights.

In summary, although there is a vast amount of people voicing their opinions on these various land areas, none of them, excepting the Blackfeet people, have a legally binding agreement ratified by Congress that guarantees the Blackfeet people unique rights within what you call the northern region of Lewis and Clark Forest. Please give our testimony the special consideration it requires. Thank you.

[A letter submitted by Mr. Cobell follows:]

THE BLACKFEET TRIBE

OF THE BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION

BROWNING, MONTANA 59417

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EARL OLD PERSON, CHAIRMAN
ARCHIE ST. GODDARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN
LEE WILSON, SECRETARY
ELOUISE C. COBELL, TREASURER

TRIBAL COUNCIL

EARL OLD PERSON
ARCHIE ST. GODDARD
LEE WILSON
LANE KENNEDY
DAN BOGGS
ROBERT "SMOKEY" DOORE
JOHN MURRAY
JOE SHOW
GEORGE KICKING WOMAN

July 5, 1983

Earl Old Person, Chief
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Honorable Senator John Melcher

Senator Melcher:

I would have liked to have personally addressed the Committee; however I have a previous commitment to preside over the North American Indian Days celebration in Browning.

The timing of your congressional hearing indicates the problem we Indian people run into - a lack of imput - as a matter of fact we were not fomally notified of this hearing.

Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you and the other men on this panel to do the following:

1) Support the Blackfeet Tribes Agreement with congress - the Agreement of 1896 - by actively assisting us in getting complete recognition of our reserved rights within the Ceded Strip of the Lewis and Clark Forest.

2) Promote dual management, (Tribe/National Forest Service), of the Ceded Strip to ensure our rights granted under the Agreement of 1896 are properly protected. Current seismic exploration in the Ceded Strip is adversely affecting the big game, which directly impacts our reserved hunting rights.

In closing, the Blackfeet Tribe wishes to have the Lewis & Clark Forest officials manage the Ceded Strip with our best interests in mind. This means the Ceded Strip can not be simply put into wilderness classification nor opened up completely for oil and gas exploitation. But instead, it should be uniquely managed just as it was uniquely acquired by negotiations with our ancient leaders.

I also would like to informally discuss this matter with you and Congressmen Williams when we enjoy the privilege of honoring you during our 32nd Annual North American Indian Days celebration.

Sincerely,

Earl Old Person, Chief
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Van Elmore.

STATEMENT OF VAN ELMORE, ANADARKO PRODUCTION CO.

Mr. ELMORE. Senator Melcher, members of the delegation, my name is Van Elmore and I am a land man with Anadarko Production. We are an oil and gas company in Denver. I would like to address these comments primarily to the front of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Anadarko Production Co. has purchased approximately 16,000 acres of Federal oil and gas leases as depicted on the attached sheet. In addition to those Federal leases, Anadarko has acquired approximately 30,000 acres of fee leases in this general RARE II study area. In the past several years, Anadarko has expended multiple millions of dollars in acquiring 1,500 miles of seismic, through regional group shoots, and in bonus costs for Federal and fee leases.

The Federal leases in this area were acquired in good faith with the expectation that Anadarko would be able to explore these for the term of the lease and produce them without interruption. These Federal leases are burdened with stipulations pursuant to the Forest Service plan and specific evaluation of the land involved. These stipulations protect grizzly bears, cut-slope areas, and other wildlife species. In addition to these stipulations, Anadarko has already begun meetings with the Forest Service, State wildlife and other agencies to coordinate seismic activity. This process of coordination in order to protect land and wildlife values will continue throughout Anadarko's operations in this area. It is Anadarko's position that these stipulations and the permitting process through the Forest Service amply protect these lands in situations of oil and gas exploration.

Technology in the oil industry has made great strides in both seismic exploration as well as in production areas, in terms of protecting the environment. Impacts can be greatly minimized both to wildlife and recreational uses. Oil and gas exploration and production are short-lived and reclamation can return areas to a natural state in a relatively short period of time after activities have ceased.

The United States today is threatened with energy dependence and it is Anadarko's position that the hydrocarbon potential in this area should be explored and produced before wilderness designations foreclose this opportunity to an energy-poor country. Anadarko estimates that this area has a potential of 300 million barrels of oil, 1 trillion cubic feet of gas associated with that oil, and another 10 trillion feet of gas unassociated with oil. It should be pointed out that the Federal Government would receive 12½ percent of this production from Federal leases.

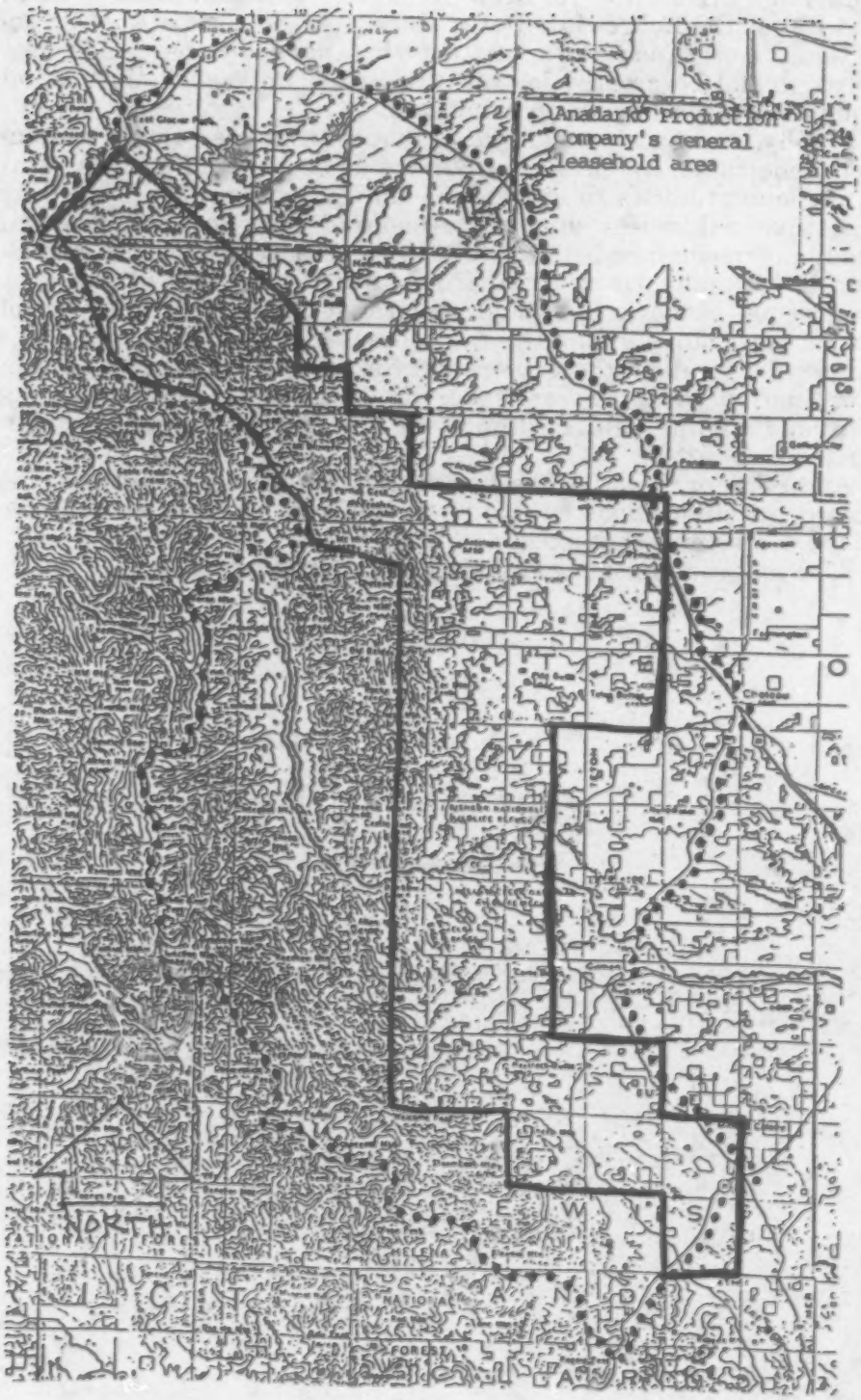
Anadarko therefore, in general, would oppose creation of wilderness in any of the study areas until such time as oil and gas production has totally depleted the existing reserves. Anadarko, in addition to its general opposition, would like to state specific opposition to the creation of wilderness in RARE II tracts 1-726, Tenderfoot Deep Creek Area; 1-485, Bob Marshall-Scapegoat, and as enumerated in the Forest Service plan, RM-11, the Renshaw Silver

King-Falls Creek; RM–10, Deep Creek; RM–8, Bench Mark Willow, and RM–2, the Lubec-Hart Butte. Once again in spite of specific objections, it is Anadarko's position that no additional wilderness areas should be created in this study area until such time as oil and gas reserves have been exhausted.

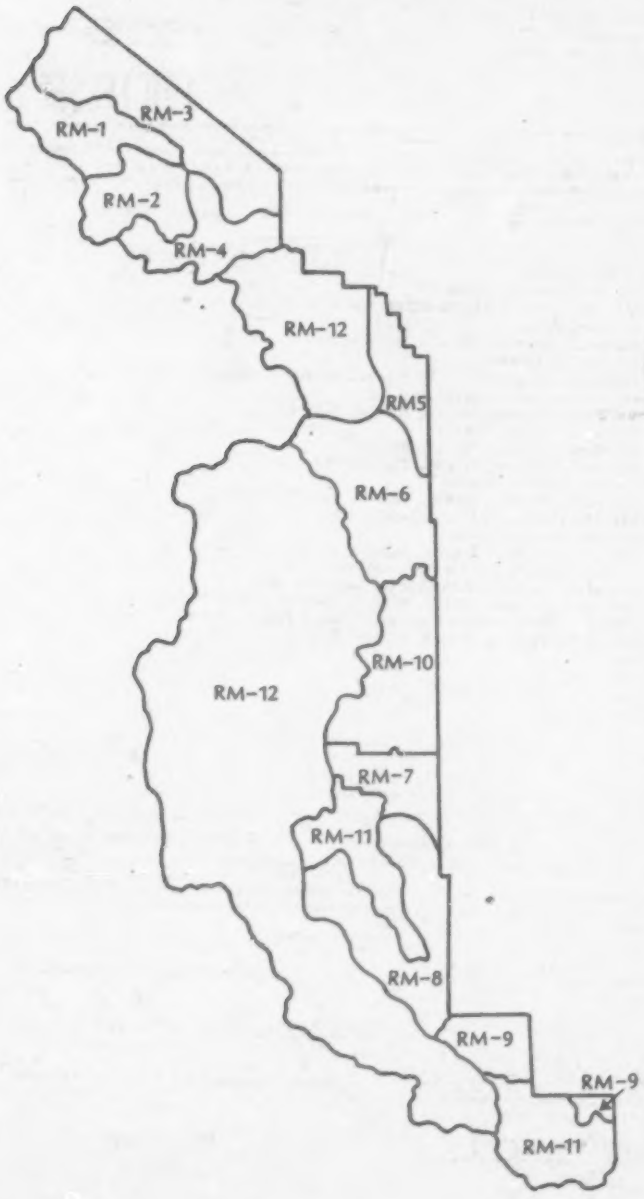
Finally, Anadarko would like to request that the current evaluation undertaken by the Forest Service be deemed sufficient so that future opportunities to explore oil and gas will not be delayed by repetitive wilderness analysis. Anadarko also requests that all lands not recommended for wilderness as a result of this evaluation be permanently released from future wilderness evaluations. In closing, Andadarko would generally oppose the creation of buffer areas surrounding the wilderness tracts. Anadarko asks this committee to allow the exploration for oil and gas in this area in coordination with the Forest Service in order to protect existing land and wildlife values without the creation of additional wilderness.

And Senator, I would like to ask that we be able to put into the record the stipulations on two of our Federal leases as an example of the protections that exist.

[The material submitted by Mr. Elmore follows:]


Anadarko Production
Company's general
leasehold area
NORTH
NATIONAL
FOREST

Lewis & Clark
National Forest Plan
Rocky Mountain Division
Geographic Units



25-35-02 Green M 53322

Form 3110-2
(January 1978)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OFFER TO LEASE AND
LEASE FOR OIL AND GAS

(Sec. 17 Noncompetitive Public Domain Lease)
Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended (30 U.S.C 181—263)

Name
Street
City
State
Zip Code

Otto G. Green
P. O. Box 1571
Oakland, CA 94604

M 53322
(Serial Number)

FOR LESSEE

This oil and gas lease is issued for a period of ten (10) years to the above-named lessee pursuant and subject to the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act and subject to all rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior now or hereafter in force, when not inconsistent with any express and specific provisions herein, which are made a part hereof.

Lands included in the lease: State Montana County Glacier

PMI 72
T. 30 N., R. 13 W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: All excl. Patent 829933
Sec. 2: All excl. Patent 773851 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 3: All excl. Patent 773851 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 10: All excl. Patents 708295, 713034, 808906 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 11: All excl. Patents 708295, 713034, 808946
Sec. 12: All excl. Patent 784311
Sec. 13: All excl. Patents 784311, 891560
Sec. 14: All excl. Patents 713034, 763320, 784311, 808986, 849366, 891560
Sec. 15: All excl. Patents 584584, 713034, 763320, 769852, 811437, 849366, 882832 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 16: All excl. Patents 769852, 811437, 824374, 826736 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 20: All excl. Lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 21: All excl. Patents 769852, 801605, 824374, 826736, 904949 & lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 22: All excl. Patents 769852, 811437, 882332
Sec. 23: All
Sec. 24: All
Sec. 25: All

Containing a total of	5386.87 acres	Annual rental: $1 per acre or fraction thereof—for each of the first five years; $3 per acre or fraction thereof—for each succeeding year

This lease is issued to the successful drawee pursuant to his Simultaneous Oil and Gas application filed under 43 CFR 3112, and is subject to the provisions of that application, those specified on the reverse side hereof, and the special stipulations attached.

Effective date of lease: JUN 1 1982

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By Cynthia L. Embertson
(Signature of Issuing Officer)

Chief, Minerals Adjudication Section
(Title)

MAY 14 1982
(Date)

Otto G. Green
(Signature of Offeror/Lessee)

April 12, 1982
(Date)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 53322
(Serial No.)

ACTIVITY COORDINATION STIPULATION

This stipulation may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey with concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

(X) This lease includes lands within occupied threatened and endangered species habitat, grizzly bear and gray wolf

% of Lease (100)

which has resource values sensitive to high levels of activity. In order to minumize impacts to these resources, special conditions, such as unitization prior to approval of operations, and/or other limitations to spread surface disturbance activities over time and space may be required prior to approval and commencement of any operations on the lease.

Date

Signature

MSO 3100-61 (October 1980)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SURFACE DISTURBANCE STIPULATIONS

District Supervisor
U.S. Geological Survey
P. O. Box 2550
Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 657-6367

Management Agency *(name)*	*Address (include zip code)*
District Ranger Rocky Mountain Ranger District Lewis & Clark National Forest	Box 340 Chouteau, MT 59422

1. Notwithstanding any provision of this lease to the contrary, any drilling, construction, or other operation on the leased lands that will disturb the surface thereof or otherwise affect the environment, hereinafter called "surface disturbing operation," conducted by lessee shall be subject, as set forth in this stipulation, to prior approval of such operation by the Area Oil and Gas Supervisor in consultation with appropriate surface management agency and to such reasonable conditions, not inconsistent with the purposes for which this lease is issued, as the Supervisor may require to protect the surface of the leased lands and the environment.

2. Prior to entry upon the land or the disturbance of the surface thereof for drilling or other purposes, lessee shall submit for approval two (2) copies of a map and explanation of the nature of the anticipated activity and surface disturbance to the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, and will also furnish the appropriate surface management agency named above, with a copy of such map and explanation.

An environmental analysis will be made by the Geological Survey in consultation with the appropriate surface management agency for the purpose of assuring proper protection of the surface, the natural resources, the environment, existing improvements, and for assuring timely reclamation of disturbed lands.

3. Upon completion of said environmental analysis, the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, shall notify lessee of the conditions, if any, to which the proposed surface disturbing operations will be subject.

Said conditions may relate to any of the following:

(a) Location of drilling or other exploratory or developmental operations or the manner in which they are to be conducted;

(b) Types of vehicles that may be used and areas in which they may be used; and

(c) Manner or location in which improvements such as roads, buildings, pipelines, or other improvements are to be constructed.

Form 3109–3
(June 1971)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

STIPULATION FOR LANDS UNDER JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*

The lands embraced in this lease or permit being under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee hereby agrees:

(1) To conduct all operations authorized by this lease or permit with due regard for good land management, not to cut or destroy timber without first obtaining permission from the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and to pay for all such timber cut or destroyed at the rates prescribed by such representative; to avoid unnecessary damage to improvements, timber, crops, or other cover; unless otherwise authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, not to drill any well, carry on operations, make excavations, construct tunnels, drill, or otherwise disturb the surface of the lands within 200 feet of any building standing on the lands and whenever required, in writing, by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture to fence or fill all sump holes, ditches, and other excavations, remove or cover all debris, and so far as reasonably possible, restore the surface of the lands to their former condition, including the removal of structures as and if required, and when required by such representative to bury all pipelines below plow depth.

(2) To do all in his power to prevent and suppress forest, brush, or grass fires on the lands and in their vicinity, and to require his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors to do likewise. Unless prevented by circumstances over which he has no control, the lessee or permittee shall place his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors and subcontractors employed on the lands at the disposal of any authorized officer of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of fighting forest, brush, or grass fires on or originating on the lands or on adjacent areas or caused by the negligence of the lessee or permittee or his employees, contractors, subcontractors and employees of contractors and subcontractors, with the understanding that payment for such services shall be made at rates to be determined by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, which rates shall not be less than the current rates of pay prevailing in the vicinity for services of a similar character: *Provided*, that if the lessee or permittee, his employees, contractors, subcontractors, or employees of contractors or subcontractors, caused or could have prevented the origin or spread of said fire or fires, no payment shall be made for services so rendered.

During periods of serious fire danger to forest, brush, or grass, as may be specified by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee shall prohibit smoking and the building of camp and lunch fires by his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors within the area involved except at established camps, and shall enforce this prohibition by all means within his power: *Provided* that the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture may designate safe places where, after all inflammable material has been cleared away, camp fires may be built for the purpose of heating lunches and where, at the option of the lessee or permittee, smoking may be permitted.

The lessee or permittee shall not burn rubbish, trash, or other inflammable materials *except* with the consent of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture and shall not use explosives in such a manner as to scatter inflammable materials on the surface of the lands during the forest, brush, or grass fire season, *except* as authorized to do so or on areas approved by such representative.

The lessee or permittee shall build or construct such fire lines or do such clearing on the lands as the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture decides is essential for forest, brush, and grass fire prevention which is or may be necessitated by the

* This form of stipulation may be used in connection with leases and permits issued under the Acts of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*); August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351 *et seq.*); February 7, 1927, as amended (30 U.S.C. 281 *et seq.*); April 17, 1926, as amended (30 U.S.C. 271 *et seq.*); June 28, 1944 (58 Stat. 483–485); September 1, 1949 (30 U.S.C. 192c); June 30, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 508b), or under the authority of any of the Acts cited in Section 402 of the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 (5 U.S.C. 133y–16, Note).

permit and [illegible] quarters or at the appropriate [illegible] the lands as are deemed necessary by such representative.

(3) In the location, design, construction, and maintenance of all authorized works, buildings, plants, waterways, roads, telegraph or telephone lines, pipelines, reservoirs, tanks, pumping stations, or other structures or clearance, the lessee or permittee shall do all things reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce to the fullest extent scarring and erosion of the lands, pollution of the water resources and any damage to the watershed. Where construction, operation, or maintenance of any of the facilities on or connected with this lease or permit causes damage to the watershed or pollution of the water resources, the lessee or permittee agrees to repair such damage and to take such corrective measures to prevent further pollution or damage to the watershed as are deemed necessary by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) If in the opinion of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lands are valuable for watershed protection, the lessee or permittee shall provide for control of surface runoff and return the affected area to as productive condition as practicable.

(5) To pay the lessor or permitter or his tenant or the surface owner or his tenant, as the case may be, for any and all damage to or destruction of property caused by the lessee's or permittee's operations hereunder; to save and hold the lessor or permitter or the surface owner or their tenants harmless from all damage or claims for damage to persons or property resulting from the lessee's or permittee's operations under this lease or permit.

(6) To recognize existing uses and commitments, in the form of Department of Agriculture grazing, timber cutting, and special use permits, water developments, ditch, road, trail, pipeline, telephone line, and fence rights-of-way and other similar improvements, and to conduct his operations so as to interfere as little as possible with the rights and privileges granted by these permits or with other existing uses.

[illegible] openings [illegible] the lessee or permittee or his contractors to private access to the lands covered by this lease or permit for automotive and other equipment.

(8) If lessee or permittee shall construct any camp on the lands, such camp shall be located at a place approved by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and such representative shall have authority to require that such camp be kept in a neat and sanitary condition.

(9) To comply with all federally-approved rules and regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare governing the emission of pollutants into the air from activities which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(10) To comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the national forests or other lands under his jurisdiction which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(11) Unless otherwise authorized, prior to the beginning of operations to appoint and maintain at all times during the term of this lease or permit a local agent upon whom may be served written orders or notices respecting matters contained in this stipulation, and to inform the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, in writing, of the name and address of such agent. If a substitute agent is appointed, the lessee or permittee shall immediately so inform the said representative.

(12) To address all matters relating to this stipulation

to District Ranger
Rocky Mountain Ranger District
at Lewis & Clark National Forest
Box 340
Chouteau, MT 59422

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, or to such other representative as may from time to time, be designated, provided that such designation shall be in writing and be delivered to the lessee or permittee or his agent.

(Signature of Lessee)

GPO 930-202

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 53322
(Serial Number)

OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined to determine if cultural resources are present and to specify mitigation measures. Prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease, the lessee or operator, unless notified to the contrary by the authorized officer of the surface management agency, shall:

1. Engage the services of a qualified cultural resource specialist acceptable to the Federal surface management agency to conduct an intensive inventory for evidence of cultural resource values;
2. Submit a report acceptable to the authorized officer of the surface management agency and the District Engineer, Geological Survey; and
3. Implement mitigation measures required by the surface management agency to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing and salvage of cultural materials. All costs of the inventory and mitigation will be borne by the lessee or operator, and all data and materials will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government as appropriate.

The lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the District Engineer, Geological Survey, or the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency any cultural or paleontological resources or any other objects of scientific interest discovered as a result of surface operations under this lease, and shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by the District Engineer, Geological Survey.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the surface management agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the surface management agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the surface management agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

ESTHETICS — To maintain esthetic values, all surface-disturbing activities, semipermanent and permanent facilities may require special design including location, painting and camouflage to blend with the natural surroundings and meet the intent of the visual quality objectives of the Federal surface management agency.

EROSION CONTROL — Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil periods. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

CONTROLLED OR LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION — This stipulation may be modified by special stipulations which are hereto attached or when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual onground conditions. The prospective lessee should contact the Federal surface management agency for more specific locations and information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

The lessee/operator is given notice that the lands within this lease may include special areas and that such areas may contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or may require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Possible special areas are identified below. Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas will be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Use or occupancy will be restricted only when the Geological Survey and/or the surface management agency demonstrates the restriction necessary for the protection of such special areas and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

After the Federal surface management agency has been advised of specific proposed surface use or occupancy on the leased lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the Agency will furnish further data on any special areas which may include:

100 feet from the edge of the rights-of-way from highways, designated county roads and appropriate federally-owned or controlled roads and recreation trails.

500 feet, or when necessary, within the 25-year flood plain from reservoirs, lakes, and ponds and intermittent, ephemeral or small perennial streams; 1,000 feet, or when necessary, within the 100-year flood plain from larger perennial streams, rivers, and domestic water supplies.

500 feet from grouse strutting grounds. Special care to avoid nesting areas associated with strutting grounds will be necessary during the period from March 1 to June 30. One-fourth mile from identified essential habitat of state and federal sensitive species. Crucial wildlife winter ranges during the period from December 1 to May 15, and in elk calving areas, during the period from May 1 to June 30.

300 feet from occupied buildings, developed recreational areas, undeveloped recreational areas receiving concentrated public use and sites eligible for or designated as National Register sites.

Seasonal road closures, roads for special uses, specified roads during heavy traffic periods and on areas having restrictive off-road vehicle designations.

On slopes over 30 percent, or 20 percent on extremely erodable or slumping soils.

Date

Lessee's Signature

MT-3109-1 (December 1981)
Formerly MSO 3100-47c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 53322

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lea:

(X) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: (2)

(a) T.30N., R.13W., P.M.M.
Sec. 13: portions of N½ less 784311

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a) Landtype 183, slopes greater than 60%
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lea:

( ) No _____ will be allowed within: ( )
_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lea:

(X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) elk winter range occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 12/1 (55)

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.30N., R.13W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: portions of N½SE¼, S½S½
Sec. 11: E½E¼
Sec. 12: All less 784311
(b) Sec. 13: All less 784311, 891580
Sec. 14: E½E½ less 784311, 808986, 891580
Sec. 21: portions of E½SE¼ less 904949
Sec. 22: portions of N½SE¼, S½S½
Sec. 23: E½, portions of NW¼, SW¼
Sec. 24: All
Sec. 25: All

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) The _____ will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

_____ Date

_____ Signature

MSO 3100-5A (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 53322

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )

(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( ) No _____ will be allowed within: ( )

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lease

X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) elk calving areas (9)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 7/1 to 4/30

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____
_____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.30N., R.13W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: portions of SE¼NE¼, portions of E½SW¼, SE¼
Sec. 12: NE¼, portions of E½NW¼, portions of SE¼
Sec. 13: portions of NE¼NE¼

(b)

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease

) The _____ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

_____ _____
Date Signature

MSO 3100.55 (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

(OG Sim. Serial No.)

M 53322
(Serial No.)

LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the Geological Survey and the Federal Surface Management Agency (SMA), for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells. After the SMA has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on those lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the SMA will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

T.30N., R.13W., P.M.M. (57%)
Sec. 1: portions of E½NE¼ less 829933, portions of SW¼SW¼
Sec. 2: portions of entire Section excluding lands within Glacier National Park and 773851
Sec. 3: All excluding lands within Glacier National Park and 773851
Sec. 10: All excluding lands within Glacier National Park and 773851, 708295, 713034, 808986
Sec. 11: portions of entire Section less 808986, 713034, 708295
Sec. 12: portions of W½NE¼, portions of NW¼, portion of N½SE¼
Sec. 13: portions of SW¼ less 891580, portion of NE¼SE¼, portions of S½SE¼
Sec. 14: portions of entire Section less 784311, 808986, 713034, 763320, 849366, 891580
Sec. 20: portions of SW¼ excluding lands within Glacier National Park
Sec. 21: portions of entire Section excluding lands within Glacier National Park, and 769852, 826738, 824374, 801605, 904949
Sec. 22: entire Section excluding 882832, 811437, 769852
Sec. 23: N½, N½SW¼, SW¼SW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼, portions of E½SE¼, NW¼SE¼, portions of SW¼SE¼
Sec. 24: portions of N½NE¼, N½NW¼, SW¼NW¼, portions of SE¼NW¼, portions of S½
Sec. 25: portions of entire Section

Reason for Restriction:

Landtype 177, 25A, 25B, 22, moderate potential for cutslope failure hazard, Appendix D, Environmental Assessment Oil and Gas Leasing Nonwilderness Lands

Duration of Restriction: (designate months)

All year

Prior to acceptance of this stipulation, the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the SMA for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

Date

Signature

MSO 3100-60 (October 1980)

25-49-47 Jurait M52673

Form 3110-2
(January 1978)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Billings, Montana
59107

FOR LESSEE

OFFER TO LEASE AND
LEASE FOR OIL AND GAS

(Sec. 17 Noncompetitive Public Domain Lease)
Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended (30 U.S.C 181–263)

Name J. Calvin Jurait
Street 8901 Arvida Lane
City Coral Gables, Florida 33156
State
Zip Code

M 52673
(Serial Number)

This oil and gas lease is issued for a period of ten (10) years to the above-named lessee pursuant and subject to the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act and subject to all rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior now or hereafter in force, when not inconsistent with any express and specific provisions herein, which are made a part hereof.

Lands included in the lease: State: Montana County: Lewis & Clark

PMT 96

T 19 N, R 9 W, PMM
Sec 1: N½, N½S½, SE¼SW¼, SE¼
Sec 2: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼
Sec 12: E½, NE¼NW¼, S½NW¼, SW¼
Sec 13: All
Sec 24: All
Sec 25: All

THIS LEASE DOES NOT AND IS NOT INTENDED TO INCLUDE ANY LANDS WITHIN A DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREA. THE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY CONTACTING THE SURFACE MANAGING AGENCY IDENTIFIED IN THE LEASE TERMS.

Containing a total of	3228.00	acres	Annual Rental... $1 per acre or fraction thereof--1st thru 5th year $3 per acre or fraction thereof--6th and each succeeding year

This lease is issued to the successful drawee pursuant to his Simultaneous Oil and Gas application filed under 43 CFR 3112, and is subject to the provisions of that application, those specified on the reverse side hereof, and the special stipulations attached.

Effective date of lease: MAY 1 1982

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By Cynthia L Embuter
(Signature of Signing Officer)

Chief, Minerals Adjudication Section
(Title)

J. Jurait
(Signature of Officer/Lessee)

April 2, 1982
(Date)

APR 15 1982
(Date)

LEASE TERMS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SURFACE DISTURBANCE STIPULATIONS

District Supervisor
U.S. Geological Survey
P. O. Box 2550
Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 657-6367

Management Agency *(name)*	Address *(include zip code)*
District Ranger Rocky Mountain Ranger District Lewis & Clark National Forest	Box 340 Choteau, MT 59422

1. Notwithstanding any provision of this lease to the contrary, any drilling, construction, or other operation on the leased lands that will disturb the surface thereof or otherwise affect the environment, hereinafter called "surface disturbing operation," conducted by lessee shall be subject, as set forth in this stipulation, to prior approval of such operation by the Area Oil and Gas Supervisor in consultation with appropriate surface management agency and to such reasonable conditions, not inconsistent with the purposes for which this lease is issued, as the Supervisor may require to protect the surface of the leased lands and the environment.

2. Prior to entry upon the land or the disturbance of the surface thereof for drilling or other purposes, lessee shall submit for approval two (2) copies of a map and explanation of the nature of the anticipated activity and surface disturbance to the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, and will also furnish the appropriate surface management agency named above, with a copy of such map and explanation.

An environmental analysis will be made by the Geological Survey in consultation with the appropriate surface management agency for the purpose of assuring proper protection of the surface, the natural resources, the environment, existing improvements, and for assuring timely reclamation of disturbed lands.

3. Upon completion of said environmental analysis, the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, shall notify lessee of the conditions, if any, to which the proposed surface disturbing operations will be subject.

Said conditions may relate to any of the following:

(a) Location of drilling or other exploratory or developmental operations or the manner in which they are to be conducted;

(b) Types of vehicles that may be used and areas in which they may be used; and

(c) Manner or location in which improvements such as roads, buildings, pipelines, or other improvements are to be constructed.

Form 3109–3
(June 1971)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

STIPULATION FOR LANDS UNDER JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*

The lands embraced in this lease or permit being under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee hereby agrees:

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(2) To do all in his power to prevent and suppress forest, brush, or grass fires on the lands and in their vicinity, and to require his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors to do likewise. Unless prevented by circumstances over which he has no control, the lessee or permittee shall place his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors and subcontractors employed on the lands at the disposal of any authorized officer of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of fighting forest, brush, or grass fires on or originating on the lands or on adjacent areas or caused by the negligence of the lessee or permittee or his employees, contractors, subcontractors and employees of contractors and subcontractors, with the understanding that payment for such services shall be made at rates to be determined by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, which rates shall not be less than the current rates of pay prevailing in the vicinity for services of a similar character: *Provided*, that if the lessee or permittee, his employees, contractors, subcontractors, or employees of contractors or subcontractors, caused or could have prevented the origin or spread of said fire or fires, no payment shall be made for services so rendered.

During periods of serious fire danger to forest, brush, or grass, as may be specified by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee shall prohibit smoking and the building of camp and lunch fires by his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors within the area involved except at established camps, and shall enforce this prohibition by all means within his power: *Provided*, that the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture may designate safe places where, after all inflammable material has been cleared away, campfires may be built for the purpose of heating lunches and where, at the option of the lessee or permittee, smoking may be permitted.

The lessee or permittee shall not burn rubbish, trash, or other inflammable materials *except* with the consent of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture and shall not use explosives in such a manner as to scatter inflammable materials on the surface of the lands during the forest, brush, or grass fire season, *except* as authorized to do so or on areas approved by such representative.

The lessee or permittee shall build or construct such fire lines or do such clearing on the lands as the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture decides is essential for forest, brush, and grass fire prevention which is or may be necessitated by the

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exercise of the privileges authorized by this lease or permit, and shall maintain such fire tools at his headquarters or at the appropriate location on the lands as are deemed necessary by such representative.

(3) In the location, design, construction, and maintenance of all authorized works, buildings, plants, waterways, roads, telegraph or telephone lines, pipelines, reservoirs, tanks, pumping stations, or other structures or clearance, the lessee or permittee shall do all things reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce to the fullest extent scarring and erosion of the lands, pollution of the water resources and any damage to the watershed. Where construction, operation, or maintenance of any of the facilities on or connected with this lease or permit causes damage to the watershed or pollution of the water resources, the lessee or permittee agrees to repair such damage and to take such corrective measures to prevent further pollution or damage to the watershed as are deemed necessary by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) If in the opinion of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lands are valuable for watershed protection, the lessee or permittee shall provide for control of surface runoff and return the affected area to as productive condition as practicable.

(5) To pay the lessor or permitter or his tenant or the surface owner or his tenant, as the case may be, for any and all damage to or destruction of property caused by the lessee's or permittee's operations hereunder; to save and hold the lessor or permitter or the surface owner or their tenants harmless from all damage or claims for damage to persons or property resulting from the lessee's or permittee's operations under this lease or permit.

(6) To recognize existing uses and commitments, in the form of Department of Agriculture grazing, timber cutting, and special use permits, water developments, ditch, road, trail, pipeline, telephone line, and fence rights-of-way and other similar improvements, and to conduct his operations so as to interfere as little as possible with the rights and privileges granted by these permits or with other existing uses.

(7) To install and maintain cattle guards to prevent the passage of livestock in any openings made in fences by the lessee or permittee or his contractors to provide access to the lands covered by this lease or permit for automotive and other equipment.

(8) If lessee or permittee shall construct any camp on the lands, such camp shall be located at a place approved by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and such representative shall have authority to require that such camp be kept in a neat and sanitary condition.

(9) To comply with all federally-approved rules and regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare governing the emission of pollutants into the air from activities which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(10) To comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the national forests or other lands under his jurisdiction which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(11) Unless otherwise authorized, prior to the beginning of operations to appoint and maintain at all times during the term of this lease or permit a local agent upon whom may be served written orders or notices respecting matters contained in this stipulation, and to inform the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, in writing, of the name and address of such agent. If a substitute agent is appointed, the lessee or permittee shall immediately so inform the said representative.

(12) To address all matters relating to this stipulation

to District Ranger
Rocky Mountain Ranger District
at Lewis & Clark National Forest
Box 340
Choteau, MT 59422

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, or to such other representative as may from time to time, be designated, provided that such designation shall be in writing and be delivered to the lessee or permittee or his agent.

(Signature of Lessee)

GPO 888-382

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 52673
(Serial Number)

OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined to determine if cultural resources are present and to specify mitigation measures. Prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease, the lessee or operator, unless notified to the contrary by the authorized officer of the surface management agency, shall:

1. Engage the services of a qualified cultural resource specialist acceptable to the Federal surface management agency to conduct an intensive inventory for evidence of cultural resource values;

2. Submit a report acceptable to the authorized officer of the surface management agency and the District Engineer, Geological Survey; and

3. Implement mitigation measures required by the surface management agency to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing and salvage or other protective measures. All costs of the inventory and mitigation will be borne by the lessee or operator, and all data and materials salvaged will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government as appropriate.

The lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the District Engineer, Geological Survey, or the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency any cultural or paleontological resources or any other objects of scientific interest discovered as a result of surface operations under this lease, and shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by the District Engineer, Geological Survey.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species, listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the surface management agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the surface management agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the surface management agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

ESTHETICS — To maintain esthetic values, all surface-disturbing activities, semipermanent and permanent facilities may require special design including location, painting and camouflage to blend with the natural surroundings and meet the intent of the visual quality objectives of the Federal surface management agency.

EROSION CONTROL — Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil periods. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

CONTROLLED OR LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION — This stipulation may be modified by special stipulations which are hereto attached or when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual onground conditions. The prospective lessee should contact the Federal surface management agency for more specific locations and information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

The lessee/operator is given notice that the lands within this lease may include special areas and that such areas may contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or may require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Possible special areas are identified below. Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas will be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Use or occupancy will be restricted only when the Geological Survey and/or the surface management agency demonstrates the restriction necessary for the protection of such special areas and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

After the Federal surface management agency has been advised of specific proposed surface use or occupancy on the leased lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the Agency will furnish further data on any special areas which may include:

100 feet from the edge of the rights-of-way from highways, designated county roads and appropriate federally-owned or controlled roads and recreation trails.

500 feet, or when necessary, within the 25-year flood plain from reservoirs, lakes, and ponds and intermittent, ephemeral or small perennial streams; 1,000 feet, or when necessary, within the 100-year flood plain from larger perennial streams, rivers, and domestic water supplies.

500 feet from grouse strutting grounds. Special care to avoid nesting areas associated with strutting grounds will be necessary during the period from March 1 to June 30. One-fourth mile from identified essential habitat of state and federal sensitive species. Crucial wildlife winter ranges during the period from December 1 to May 15, and in elk calving areas, during the period from May 1 to June 30.

300 feet from occupied buildings, developed recreational areas, undeveloped recreational areas receiving concentrated public use and sites eligible for or designated as National Register sites.

Seasonal road closures, roads for special uses, specified roads during heavy traffic periods and on areas having restrictive off-road vehicle designations.

On slopes over 30 percent, or 20 percent on extremely erodable or slumping soils.

April 2 1982
Date

Lessee's Signature

MT 3109-1 (December 1981)
Formerly MSO 3100-47c

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
222 North 32nd Street
Billings, Montana 59107

ADDITION TO LEASE TERMS

1. Due to the enactment of Public Law 97-78, signed by the President November 16, 1981, this lease contains an additional term specifying the rights and obligations of an oil and gas lease issued subsequent to that Act. This term merely specifies what the impact of passage of that Act has done to a Federal oil and gas lease issued on or after November 16, 1981. The additional lease term is as follows:

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-78, this lease includes all deposits of non-gaseous hydrocarbon substances other than coal, oil shale, or gilsonite (including all vein-type solid hydrocarbons). Development by methods not conventionally used for oil and gas extraction such as fire, flooding and including surface mining will require the lessee to submit a plan of operations and will be subject to regulations governing development by such methods when those rules are issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the USGS, and the rules or procedures of the surface managing agency, if other than BLM. Development may proceed only if the plan of operations is approved.

---

2. This lease is issued pursuant and subject to the terms and provisions of Section 302 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152) and to the regulations of the Secretary of Energy promulgated thereunder relating to the:

(1) fostering of competition for Federal leases (including but not limited to, prohibition on bidding for development rights by certain types of joint ventures);

(2) implementation of alternative bidding systems authorized for the award of Federal leases;

(3) establishment of diligence requirements for operations conducted on Federal leases (including, but not limited to, procedures relating to the granting or ordering by the Secretary of the Interior of suspension of operations or production as they relate to such requirements);

(4) setting rates of production for Federal leases; and

(5) specifying the procedures, terms, and conditions for the acquisition and disposition of Federal royalty interests taken in kind.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. N 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lea

(6)

X) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: portions of N½NE¼, portions of NW¼SW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼
Sec. 2: portions of NW¼NE¼
Sec. 12: portions of E½NW¼
(X) Sec. 24: portions of SW¼SW¼
Sec. 25: portions of W½NW¼, portions of SW¼, portions of W½SE¼

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a) Landtype 182 and 202; slopes greater than 60%
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lea

( )

) No _____ will be allowed within: _____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lea

(31)

X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) sheep winter range occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 11/30

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: W½E½, E½W½, W½NW¼, NW¼SW¼
Sec. 2: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼
Sec. 12: portions of E½E½, W½E½, E½W½, SW¼NW¼, W½SW¼
(b)

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lea

( )

) The _____ will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

4/13/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3160-5 (January 1981)

[redacted]ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN[redacted]OR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )

(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lea

( ) No _____ will be allowed within: ( )

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of L

(X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) elk winter range occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 12/1 (6

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: E½, NW¼, N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼
Sec. 2: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼
Sec. 12: E½, E½NW¼, SW¼NW¼, SW¼
(b) Sec. 13: E½, NW¼, E½SW¼, portions of NW¼SW¼
Sec. 24: N½NE¼, portions of S½NE¼, portions of NE¼NW¼

Road Use Stipulation

% of

( ) The _____ will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

April 2/87
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-55 (January 1981)

[redacted] STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN[redacted]OR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( )

No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease:
(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( )

No _____ will be allowed within:
_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lease

X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) elk calving areas (14)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 7/1 to 4/30

(b) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) Big Game Migration route (11)
occupancy will be allowed only during. 1/15 to 4/15
6/1 to 12/1

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 13: portions of E½, portions of S½NW¼, SW¼
Sec. 24: portions of NW¼NE¼, portions of N½NW¼

(b) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 13: portions of NE¼, portions of SE¼NW¼, portions of SW¼, portions of NW¼SE¼
Sec. 24: portions of S½NE¼, portions of NW¼, portions of NE¼SW¼, portions of N½SE¼

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease

( )

The _____
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

April 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-55 (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( )

No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease:

(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:

(a)

(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( )

No _____ will be allowed within _____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within:

_____ feet of _____ located within

_____ feet of _____ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lease

(<1)

(a) In order to ~~(minimize)~~ (protect) sheep lambing areas occupancy will be allowed only during: 7/1 to 4/14

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) _____ will be allowed only during: _____

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 2: portions of NW¼NE¼, portions of SE¼NE¼

(b)

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lease

( )

The _____ will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

April 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-22 (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

(OG Sim. Serial No.)

M 52673
(Serial No.)

LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the Geological Survey and the Federal Surface Management Agency (SMA), for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells. After the SMA has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on those lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the SMA will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M. (6%)

Sec. 1: portions of W½NE¼, portions of NW¼,
portions of N½SW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼
Sec. 24: portions of S½NW¼

Reason for Restriction: Landtype 23A, moderate potential for cutslope failure hazard, Appendix D, Environmental Assessment Oil and Gas Leasing Non-Wilderness Lands

Duration of Restriction: (designate months)

All year

Prior to acceptance of this stipulation, the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the SMA for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

Date

Signature

MSO 3100-60 (October 1980)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 52673
(Serial No.)

ACTIVITY COORDINATION STIPULATION

This stipulation may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey with concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

(X) This lease includes lands within occupied threatened and endangered species habitat, grizzly bear and gray wolf — % of Lease (100)

which has resource values sensitive to high levels of activity. In order to minumize impacts to these resources, special conditions, such as unitization prior to approval of operations, and/or other limitations to spread surface disturbance activities over time and space may be required prior to approval and commencement of any operations on the lease.

April 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-61 (October 1980)

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. George Roskie.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE F. ROSKIE, FORMER SUPERVISOR, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. ROSKIE. Thank you, Senator Melcher. I'm speaking for myself as a former supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. I would like to commend the Montana delegation for giving the people of Montana the opportunity to speak directly to the record on the questions of wilderness in our State.

In reviewing the record for the past decade, it is quite apparent that the questions of wilderness designations have been studied, restudied, reviewed, litigated, and politicized far beyond reason. The Forest Service for years has been not only meeting the increasing requirements of law and regulations, but attempting as well to satisfy the demands and legal actions of certain special-interest groups having an apparently insatiable appetite for more and more wilderness.

During the past decade responsible dedicated professional people in the Forest Service have done a thorough and complete job of analyzing all potential wilderness areas in Montana. However, when sound decisions were reached and recommendations made, appeals, court suits, and political demands have forced the Forest Service to go back and needlessly plow the same ground over and over again. It is high time that delays cease and roadblocks be removed so that the Forest Service can get on with sound planning and multiple-use management of all of Montana's national forests including designated wilderness areas.

Time does not permit more than a quick review of the wilderness situation on the Lewis and Clark, Lolo, and Flathead Forests. However, it should be noted that during the recent past there has been a significant increase in designated wilderness areas along the Continental Divide in these three forests. To approximately 945,000 acres in the original Bob Marshall has been added the 240,000-acre Scapegoat, the 65,000-acre Bob Marshall Addition and the 316,000-acre Great Bear Wilderness areas, for a total of over 1,500,000 acres. After a thorough analysis, the Forest Service has recommended the addition of 63,000 acres in the Renshaw Mountain and Silver King-Falls Creek areas, with which I concur, for a total of almost 1,630,000 acres.

These additions essentially blanket most of the 190-mile stretch of the Continental Divide from Glacier Park to Rogers Pass as well as the North and South Forks of the Sun River and the upper Dearborn, Blackfoot and South Fork of the Flathead River basins. Any further wilderness expansion in this area, such as the Deep Creek study area, is clearly not justified by any multiple-use criteria and would only serve to satisfy the desires of some special-interest groups to keep as much land as possible out of legitimate multiple uses other than wilderness.

As to the other study areas mandated for review by Public Law 393, the Forest Service has recommended nonwilderness status for the Middle Fork of the Judith River and the Big Snowy Mountains. Because of the nature of these areas, including roads, private land

patterns, mining claims and other multiple-use values, these areas should clearly not be designated for wilderness.

In conclusion, I am in full support of the Forest Service wilderness and nonwilderness recommendations in this area. In addition, I strongly urge the Montana congressional delegation to also support these recommendations and to jointly prepare and introduce in the current session of Congress a Montana wilderness bill based on these Forest Service recommendations. In addition, to truly meet the long-term needs of Montana people and Montana's national forests, the bill must contain language clearly stating the RARE II environmental statement to be sufficient and, further, releasing all roadless areas not recommended for wilderness from further wilderness consideration. Thank you for the time.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Nick Poncelet.

STATEMENT OF NICK PONCELET, WHITEFISH, MONT.

Mr. PONCELET. My name is Nick Poncelet, I would like to thank the Montana delegation for this opportunity to present a different viewpoint on the percentage basis. I am a native Montanan and have lived in the Rocky Mountain region of Montana over 40 years. I am an outdoor enthusiast, active in traveling the mountain areas of Montana. In that scope, I and my family ride trail bikes and snow cats.

I have covered most trails from the Snowy Mountains of Lewistown, the areas around Harlowton, White Sulphur, and Great Falls, south, west, and northwest to the summit. I have covered hundreds of miles of trails in the Flathead area also. I have been doing this since 1958.

The main advantage of trail bikes is I can travel into the backcountry 20 miles or more, have a picnic, sightsee or pan for gold, and ride back out the same day. You cannot do that on foot or by horseback. The way things are today, I cannot take time to go on foot or horseback because I am too busy trying to make a living to support my family, therefore, I am limited severely if I cannot take a trail bike.

Now that my children are getting old enough to ride the trails, I would like to take them through this same country I have toured, but lo and behold, many of these trails that I have covered are now closed to motorized travel.

Now in the present direction forest planning is taking, most of the places I have went and like to go will be closed, and my children will never see them. I say enough is enough, there is already sufficient primative areas.

Our need for the people of the State of Montana will be best served by allowing multiple use of our forest lands to provide recreation, good economic base, and most of all jobs.

I wonder, is all this land lockup a back doorway for Big Brother-type of government to gain more control over the people by limiting their travel and access to public lands. Maybe our forefathers who wrote the U.S. Constitution limiting the Government and its powers, had the foresight of what is happening today, for what

they wrote in article I, section 8, paragraph 17, and the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution:

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District as may, by session of particular states and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards and other needful buildings.

Article X,

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

The Federal Government has ignored the supreme law of the land, will they ignore the will of the local people who live in the areas affected? Let's have the local people have the say what goes on in their local areas and get this matter settled. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

George Raths.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE RATHS, ROUNDUP, MONT., AS PRESENTED BY JIM RATHS

Mr. RATHS. Senator Melcher, I am Jim Raths, and I am here to speak on behalf of George Raths who was unable to attend. The following testimony was prepared by George Raths:

Our property adjoins the east edge of the proposed Big Snowys Wilderness, and we have a permit within the proposed area.

Any regulation that would curtail the use of vehicles into this area would create a large problem for us. Salt and minerals have to be hauled in every week. The only source of water is a weak spring which has to be checked twice a week. The boundary fence needs a lot of repair because of game and snow damage.

The Big Snowy Mountains with trails going up into their canyons and on the ridges is a favorite place for the local ranchers and people from the surrounding towns to hunt deer, elk, goats, bear, and turkeys, to have a picnic, to hunt rocks and artifacts, to hike and pick berries, and just get out and relax.

In the winter, the Big Snowys are a great snowmobile area and sometimes it is the only snow around. The part of the Big Snowy Mountains I am familiar with has many vehicle trails leading into the mountains. Maynard Ridge Trail goes to the top, a trail up Careless Creek goes to the top, Swimming Woman Creek has a trail navigable by car, Horsethief, Red Hill and Twin Coulee all have trails that are accessible by pickup or 4 by 4's. I am sure this is true on the other side of the mountain, too.

To eliminate the vehicle-associated recreation in the Snowys would deprive many people of a place to go. Private and public lands in central Montana are already overtaxed for recreation. Curtailment of use because a few want it to themselves does not make sense.

These people who use these mountains for vehicle-associated recreation do not have wealthy State and national organizations to prompt them to attend hearings and give testimony. They probably are not even aware of this hearing. They are not professional hearing attenders.

Let's leave the Snowys to be managed as they have been in the past.

I would like to add on my own behalf, that I am a wilderness user and I am an individual backpacker, and I have never considered the Snowy Mountains to be a prime wilderness area. Thank you, Senators and Congressmen.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Doctor Birdsall.

STATEMENT OF DR. E. F. BIRDSALL, PUBLIC LANDS COORDINATOR, CONOCO

Dr. BIRDSALL. I am Fred Birdsall. My concerns for specific withdrawal for prospective oil lands are in my written statement. I talked to you before on this Montana bill. And you will recall in Missoula I affirmed alternative W for total disregard for protective values and there is no sense repeating it. I described a need to make informed rather than blind decisions on withdrawal with regard to minerals. In Anaconda I told you of the need for clear release language was important in the Montana bill as arbitration of wilderness unit boundaries.

Today, my focus is on the compatibility of oil exploration with the environment. I'll start with the story on Senate bill 2801. Senator Melcher, you were there, too, and heard last year what the vice president of the Audubon Society described as the awful consequences of oil exploration. Now, the Audubon Society owns a number of private wildlife refuges. The royalty income is important to the work of the society. Activity is carefully controlled to be in harmony with the wildlife environment. We have no great difficulty complying with that. A few days after 2801's testimony, Senator, the exploration manager was invited to the Audubon Society's office to see how we could expedite work on a lease we held from them in Louisiana. Today we are drilling that lease. I hope we find oil, and so do they. It is multiple use at its best, and a true case of eating your cake and having it too. Now, I don't blame the Audubon vice president for appearing to have double standards, but Congress should look carefully at exaggerated claims of incompatibility.

Conoco, like others, seeks to be on the cutting edge of science. A part of that is the improved and improving ability to treat the land gently while harvesting its resources. We have operated an oilfield for 50 years in the Federal wildlife refuge at Aransas Pass, home to 11 endangered species. The magnificent whooping crane winters there amongst our pumps, pipelines, and oilfield equipment. We are fortunate to have this striking living testimony to coexistence, since under today's restrictions we probably would not have had the opportunity to enter those lands in the first place.

There obviously isn't time to catalog all examples. I would like to make a quote attributed to Mark Twain. Upon reading of his death, accidentally posted in the obituaries, Mark Twain wrote back, "The recent reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." You have heard many claims of incompatibility during these hearings. Like Mark Twain's death, they may be slightly exaggerated. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Birdsall follows:]

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN
FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN THE PROPOSED MONTANA WILDERNESS

Great Falls, MT July 9, 1983

by Dr. E. F. Birdsall, Public Lands Coordinator, Conoco

My name is Fred Birdsall. I am Public Lands Coordinator for Conoco. Having previously testified on westernmost Montana forests I am now pleased to return once again to describe to you our interests east of the overthrust in the Helena and Lewis and Clark Forests.

Conoco is pursuing exploration south and east of the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness near Helena. Most of our areas of interest involve RARE II units recommended for non-wilderness. However since Alternative W has been cited as including Camas, Mount Baldy, and Tenderfoot-Deep Creek (1617, 1616, and 1726) we specifically urge that these remain in non-wilderness and that suitable release language establish and maintain a status where exploration on those units will not be compromised.

The Rocky Mountain Front lands east of the Bob Marshall are our second zone of interest. We share with the rest of the oil industry high concern for keeping those lands open to exploration and development.

During my previous testimonies at Anaconda and Missoula I took advantage of the opportunity to diffuse some of the emotionalism and myths which accompany pro-wilderness arguments. In Missoula I spoke of the fallacy of saving oil for our grandchildren and of the need to establish certainty to overthrust crude estimates. We think there's a lot of oil and gas up here but frankly do not know for sure. I spoke of the fact that most exploration holes

will be dry and production once established will be of limited areal extent. In Anaconda I spoke of the need for clear release language as being as important to the Montana bill as the arbitration of wilderness unit boundaries. Today I would like to speak to the compatibility of oil and gas operations with sensitive environmental values. I wish to dispell the anxiety that oil and gas exploration and production are irreparably damaging. Wilderness proponents argue that withdrawal is essential to protection and preservation of environmental values. Industry's operating experience and exemplary rehabilitation capabilities simply do not bear out that argument.

I will start with a story on Senate Bill 2801, which was a Congressional effort last year to create the so-called Wilderness Protection Act of 1982. During hearings on that bill I heard the Vice-President of the Audobon Society describe to the Senate the awful consequences of oil activities. Now you probably know that the Audobon Society owns a number of private wildlife refuges. On these private refuges they encourage oil exploration and production. The royalty revenue is important to the work of the Society. The oil operations are carefully controlled to be in harmony with the wildlife environment. We have no great problems with that. A few days after I heard the Audobon testimony describing the terrible effects of oil activities, our Exploration Manager was called to the Audobon Society's offices to see how we could expedite work on a lease we held from them in Louisiana. Today we are drilling that lease. I hope we find oil, and so do they. It is multiple

use at its best, a true case of eating your cake and having it too. I don't blame the Audobon Vice President for appearing to have double standards. I'd probably do the same thing. But Congress should look carefully at exaggerated claims of incompatibility.

Conoco, like others,seeks to be on the cutting edge of science. A part of that is the improved and improving ability to treat the land gently while harvesting its resources. We have operated an oilfield for 50 years in the federal wildlife refuge at Aransas Pass, home to eleven endangered species. The magnificient whooping crane winters there amongst our pumps, pipelines, and oilfield equipment. We are fortunate to have this striking living testimony to coexistance, since under today's restrictions we probably would not have had the opportunity to enter those lands.

Consider the caribou, the grizzlies, the rich wildlife along the Trans Alaska Pipeline. The early environmental claims of harm to that population simply never materialized. When we ultimately leave, their well-being will not have been violated. We have built, used, and then obliterated roads which are not now detectable. Our work is temporary and reparable. We can coexist and after we've finished our work nature carries on.

I seem to recall a quote attributed to Mark Twain. Upon reading of his death, accidentally posted in the obituaries, Mark Twain wrote back, "The recent reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." You have heard many claims of incompatibility during these hearings. Like Mark Twain's death, they may be slightly exaggerated. I hope you will remember my story of the Audobon Society lease when you return to Washington to write our bill.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Marian Hanson.

STATEMENT OF HON. MARIAN HANSON, MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT NO. 57

Ms. HANSON. Thank you, Senator Melcher and members of the delegation. My name is Marian Hanson, representative of district 57, Ashland, Mont. I am here today to oppose any wilderness status in the Ashland District of the Custer National Forest. There is no way it can qualify.

The imprint of man is visible with 7 reservoirs, 6 wells, 17 developed springs, 8 miles of roads or signs of roads, and several miles of cross-fences where the permittees have developed management pastures.

The areas have been in hiking and riding status for several years now. The boundary of these areas have not been marked on the ground, and hunters and others still drive on them. Driving begins in the spring with turkey season and continues through the fall with turkey, deer, and antelope. I feel no more restrictions should be placed on this land. Perhaps if it is to be a true wilderness, man should also be banned from it.

The ranchers in this area currently depend on the grazing to make their ranches an economical unit. If summer grazing is denied, this would no longer be true.

Another issue that has not been addressed is the fire hazard in these areas. It is no more than 3 miles to habitation where people live and work. This country is grass country. If allowed to be wilderness with no control of fire, what happens and who is responsible for fire damage to private property?

I believe that the livelihood of the ranches is more important than the recreational benefit of the small percent of people who would use the area for wilderness. Everyone can use the area now.

Senator Melcher, you and I know this land does not qualify for wilderness status. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Marian. I appreciate your drawing this to our attention. And I assure you, Marian, it will personally be flagged by this committee.

Mr. HANSON. Thank you, Senator.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. This concludes this panel.

Patty Busko.

STATEMENT OF PATTY BUSKO, PRESIDENT, WILDLANDS AND RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

Ms. BUSKO. I'm Patty Busko, and I'm testifying on behalf of the Wildlands and Resources Association. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present views on behalf of the Wildlands and Resources Association concerning wilderness proposals for north central Montana. WRA represents a group of conservation-minded people from Great Falls and the surrounding area. The major areas we wish to address are the RARE II sufficiency, proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the release of Federal lands.

We support a declaration of legal sufficiency for RARE II in Montana under certain conditions. Basically we believe that the ad-

ditional 2.2 million acres of national forest lands identified by Montana conservationists must be included along with the mere 600,000 acres that the Forest Service recommended under RARE II. The additional roadless, undeveloped public land represents areas that have been used as wilderness for years by hikers, horse packers, and hunters. Labeled alternative W, these 2.2 million acres comprise additions to 8 existing wilderness areas and the creation of 21 new areas.

There are five areas in the Lewis and Clark and Helena National Forest along the Rocky Mountain Front that we recommend as additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex. Our organization has been working with the Bob Marshall Alliance and feel that the areas identified by the alliance for wilderness classification represents a reasonable compromise for the Bob Marshall. These are also a part of the 2.2 million alternative W lands. The five areas we recommend for addition are Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Falls Creek-Silver King, Renshaw Mountain, and Deep Creek. The addition of these areas along the Monture Creek and Swan Front on the west represent 400,000 acres, a small amount when you consider that less than 1 percent of our land mass in the lower 48 States is wilderness and only 2.3 percent of Montana lands are wilderness now.

The Deep Creek area deserves special note in that it received the highest RARE II rating for wilderness attributes in the lower 48 States. Through the years, significant regional economy and economic dependency has evolved, based on the outstanding recreational, scenic, and wildlife values along this and other parts of the Rocky Mountain Front. We believe it would be a serious mistake to disrupt a steady, stable economy based on these existing values. WRA opposed introduction of incompatible uses such as commercial timber harvest and oil and gas activity. Not only is there irrepairable damage done by roadmaking on unstable soils, but also there is the endangerment to the natural inhabitants of the area. Deep Creek is a critical land for the Sun River elk herd, as well as a rich habitat for the grizzly bear and a wintering ground for North America's largest herd of bighorn sheep.

Our last concern involves the release of roadless country from wilderness consideration. WRA opposes the hard, permanent release of these roadless lands from further wilderness consideration. While we agree that release is appropriate, we believe it should fall under the 10-to-15-year forest planning period mandated by the National Forest Management Act. It is important for the public to have input into which areas will be released and how they will be released. It is therefore practical and reasonable, though no guarantee of preservation, that these areas be under soft release through the forest planning process.

To summarize, Wildland and Resources Association asks for conditional sufficiency on RARE II, dependent on additional recommendations of the priority alternative W roadless areas. In particular, we ask that Deep Creek be maintained as wilderness and that all development to this area cease. Finally, we recognize the strong desire and need to have wilderness issues settled for Montana. At the same time, we ask that they be settled on the side of caution and restraint in the utilization of roadless areas not designated as

wilderness. We believe that soft release through the forest planning process is the only reasonable compromise.

It is our hope that the quality of Montana life and the significant, stable economy based on the recreational, scenic, and wildlife values will be supported and maintained. We oppose any legislation which sacrifices these values. The reasonable course is to emphasize conservation of nonrenewable resources and develop energy alternatives that do not degrade our valuable environment.

On behalf of Wildlands and Resources Association and the people in Great Falls and Central Montana it represents, I thank you for the opportunity to present our views and urge your favorable consideration of our recommendations. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Pam Stevens.

STATEMENT OF PAM STEVENS

Ms. STEVENS. My statement is basically in three parts, recommendations for the Rocky Mountain Front, reasons for my recommendations and discussion of areas in the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark Forest.

I support the following areas of the Rocky Mountain Front for classification as wilderness: The Silver King-Falls Creek area, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, the High Peaks in the head of the Teton drainages, and Choteau Mountain. I have to address the question of boundaries in somewhat general terms, but with these guides. The boundaries should be located as to exclude heavily traveled day use areas in the Falls Creek area, for example. Similarly, in the Renshaw study area around Bench Mark.

In the Deep Creek study area, Hannan Gulch, Blacktail, Mortimer Gulch, and the area at the head of Gibson Reservoir should be excluded for similar reasons. The boundaries in the head of the Teton and Choteau Mountain are quite well defined by limiting topography and existing development.

My reasons for supporting wilderness for the above areas are several. First and foremost is the character of the land itself. The outstanding scenic qualities, the physical limitations of soil, and topography as characterized by Holdorf's ecological land unit classification, and several populations of the big game sophisticates of the wildlife world. These qualities fairly cry out for a special kind of management. It is therefore a matter of maintaining a suitable and proper land ethic that should guide our management for the future.

Second, we should not disrupt the recreation and tourism economy that has evolved over the past several decades by introducing new activities such as commercial timber harvest and oil and gas development. A viable timber industry has not evolved along the Rocky Mountain Front of the Lewis and Clark Forest in a century of development except to satisfy local needs. Because of limitations of terrain, soils, and hydrology, it would be a mistake to encourage a dependent commercial timber industry now. Timber for post and poles, firewood and harvest necessary to maintain vegetative health in presently accessible areas should continue to be an option.

The Rocky Mountain Front should not be available for oil and gas exploration and development, except in presently accessible areas. This activity is simply not compatible with the physical limitations of the land and/or the existing economy based on other values. We are doing this Nation a disservice by facilitating a search for the last reservoirs of oil and gas, without commensurate effort on research and development of energy conservation and other energy alternatives. The administration is not giving strong support to alternative energy research and development now. Neither can industry demonstrate the need for natural gas from this area now or in the foreseeble future.

A third reason for supporting wilderness for the above areas is in support of endangered species. The Rare and Endangered Species Act is the law of the land. The grizzly bear is one of the prime species in the northern Rockies ecosystem that requires protection of the act. The Federal Government is committed to its recovery. Development has simply not proven compatible with its requirements. The several deaths of grizzly bears the past spring eloquently express the incompatibility of development with their needs. Further discussion would add little. Because lands north of Birch Creek have liens on them imposed by a treaty with the Blackfeet that may subject them to development, the lands south of there may become doubly important to survival of the bear.

The Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark Forest is a different circumstance. I oppose designation of wilderness for the Middle Fork of the Judith. If we are honest about wanting to protect the Judith elk herd then we should designate it a wildlife management area and prescribe management to accomplish wildlife management objectives. This could include timber harvest as a means of improving wildlife habitat.

I can support wilderness designation for the Big Snowys except that timber products should remain available from existing access. The Big Snowys represent a rather unique ecosystem in the tension zone between the prairie and the Rocky Mountains.

In other roadless areas of the Jefferson Division management direction should be prescribed by the forest plan. These include Pilgrim Creek, the Tenderfoot and others.

In the matter of sufficiency for RARE II, I believe sufficiency would be acceptable if it were linked to a Montana wilderness bill that deals with and classifies those areas suitable for wilderness concurrently with sufficiency. Otherwise I oppose it. And resolution of the RARE II areas should then be accomplished through the forest plans. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Max Barker.

STATEMENT OF MAX BARKER, JJJ WILDERNESS RANCH

Mr. BARKER. My name is Max Barker. I want to thank you and take advantage of this opportunity to emphasize the special physical nature of two RARE II areas, Deep Creek-Reservoir North and Renshaw Mountain within the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Both of these areas exhibit pristine and spectacular beauty of a quality difficult to find in the country anymore. Both are part of

an extremely important watershed supplying the Greenfield irrigation system which could easily be adversely affected by any kind of roading and development. The RARE II study gave Deep Creek a perfect score of 28 out of 28 in its wilderness attribute rating. That, gentlemen, is the highest recommendation for wilderness designation that you can get. Moreover, these areas are extremely valuable habitat for a myriad of wildlife which can and will be adversely affected should these areas ever be roaded or subjected to development. An outfitting and dude ranch industry along the Rocky Mountain front utilizes these areas for a growing recreational demand.

There are some small undertows of local opposition to wilderness designation for these areas based on an unfounded fear of jeopardizing grazing leases and/or some personal empire building. Statements have been circulated inferring a resulting lowering of the quality of the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

In response to that, I want to point out that the Wilderness Act of 1964 expressly allows for continuation of grazing leases. And to the concern that wilderness designation will lower the quality of the Bob Marshall area, this refutes the wisdom of thousands of members of the Bob Marshall Alliance which recommends these additions. Those opposing are putting their own personal gain ahead of the best interests of the ranchers depending on irrigation water, our vast array of wildlife dependent on these wild areas staying wild, to say nothing of the booming recreational demands of the general public all over the Nation.

My recommendation to you is by all means support the Rocky Mountain front additions for wilderness designation as recommended by the Bob Marshall Alliance, the Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Council and the Montana Wilderness Association as well as the vast majority of the public at large.

Also, I would like to have entered the records for people that aren't here.

Senator MELCHER. They will be made part of the record at this time.

[The letters follow:]

JJJ WILDERNESS RANCH,
Augusta, Mont., July 8, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Public Hearings on Wilderness,
Great Falls, Mont.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: Thank you for your concerns relating to Montana's public lands. I hope that in weighing the evidence for vital decisions pertaining to designation of wilderness areas, you will consider the needs of the future.

Mankind, in order to survive, must maintain our remaining wildlands and use the brilliant mind that God gave him to produce energy without depleting the earth's natural resources.

My sincere thanks for your best efforts,

ANN BARKER.

JJJ WILDERNESS RANCH,
Augusta, Mont., July 8, 1983.

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Public Hearings on Wilderness Designations,
Great Falls, MT

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: As I sit in my living room watching the fog lifting off the mountains to the north within the Deep Creek RARE II Area, I am so thankful it is not smog as exists in so much of our country.

It is my plea that you would consider once again what fate you hold in your hands for our wildlands for the future generations.

It is worth ruining these lands for short term gains for the present generation or can we make some allowances to save some of God's handiwork for our heirs?

Sincerely,

CHRISTA MATTINGLY.

Senator MELCHER. Jennifer Kolmes.

STATEMENT OF JENNIFER KOLMES, LIBRARIAN, COLLEGE OF GREAT FALLS

Ms. KOLMES. Thank you, Senator Melcher, members of the delegation. I'm Jennifer Kolmes, the librarian here at the College of Great Falls. I am speaking on behalf of myself and other wilderness enthusiasts. I would like to encourage this delegation to push for adoption of a proposal put together by a coalition of Montana conservationists, including the Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana Chapter of Sierra Club. This proposal known as alternative W for wilderness, wildlife, way of life, would protect 3 million acres of wilderness while releasing the other 3 million acres to development. This plan would also call for soft release of those lands not chosen for wilderness designation at this time, meaning that those areas may eventually be reconsidered. Areas near to Great Falls which would receive wilderness designation under this plan include the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek, Nevada Mountain, Camas Creek, and Mount Baldy.

Why is it necessary to put so much land out of the reach of useful enterprise? My answer to that question is that as Montanans, we want to make it clear at this time that we are firmly committed to the protection and preservation of Montana's pristine wildlands. As someone who moved to Montana recently from a State which has no officially recognized wilderness, I am in a good position to testify that without such a designation, Montana's wildlands will unquestionably suffer. In Ohio where I was born and raised, I have seen whole hillsides eroded and washed into the valleys as a result of makeshift roads bulldozed up the hillside by loggers and drillers. I have seen once clear and thriving streams clouded and the fish destroyed by runoff from mines. These things are commonly seen within the boundaries of the Wayne National Forest in Ohio. The people who live in this part of Ohio and who care about this land are powerless to protect it from the rights of a minority who benefit from this kind of development.

So I say that Montana can spare another 3 million acres to set aside as unspoiled wilderness for those who live here to enjoy. Montanans will benefit ecoomically from this arrangement, too, as dollars from vacationing tourists continue to pour in over the years. Tourism profits are profits which stay in the State for the most

part, and will contribute to the financial health of the local communities.

With these thoughts in mind, I urge that alternative W be adopted as a vital step toward assuring that our children and our children's children realize beyond any doubt that Montanans in 1983 appreciated the value of their wilderness.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Chirstine Deveny.

STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE DEVENY, HELENA, MONT.

Ms. DEVENY. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Williams and Marlenee, my name is Christie Deveny, and I reside in Helena, Mont. Once again I would like to take the opportunity to testify before the Montana congressional delegation in regard to the management of Montana's 6 million acres of roadless National Forest Service lands.

As I have previously testified, I support Montana conservationist's alternative W proposal, calling for the designation of approximately 2.2 million acres of wilderness and the soft release of nearly 3 million acres to be reevaluated in 15 years through the national forest planning cycle.

I have had the good fortune of being able to hike, backpack, fish and generally enjoy many areas of Montana, in particular those areas close to Helena in the Helena National Forest. While I advocate wilderness designation for all of the areas described in alternative W, of special interest to me is the Birch Creek basin area just east of Townsend in the Big Belt Mountains. Included in the beautiful and scenic Birch Creek basin are over a dozen glacier-formed high mountain lakes, a cascading waterfall, a series of limestone spires, and most notably to the residents of Helena, Townsend, and White Sulphur Springs, the majestic 9,400-feet peaks of Mount Edith and Mount Baldy that tower over the upper Missouri River Valley.

As well as being home to black bear, elk, deer, mountain goat, and healthy populations of cutthroat and rainbow trout, this spectacular country is one of the most popular hiking, backpacking and recreational areas near Helena. On a single summer weekend, it is not uncommon to find as many as 10 campsites occupied around Hidden Lake alone. Cross-country skiers enjoy the challenges of this area, too.

Fortunately, due to the steep and rocky high mountain terrain and the very marginal timber stands within the basin, no timber harvesting has occurred yet within this portion of the Birch Creek basin. Some regions outside this area where clear-cutting occurred 15 to 20 years ago, however, clearly demonstrate the irreparable damage that harvesting these steep fragile areas can cause.

It is obvious that the recreational and esthetic values of this 15,800-acre basin would far exceed the profits, if any, from the harvest and development of this unique and pristine haven in the Big Belt Mountains. Wilderness designation would be the soundest management decision that could be made for this area. I ask that the Birch Creek basin, as well as the other areas listed in the alter-

native W proposal, be included as Montana wilderness. Thank you for listening to my comments.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Pamela Stevens.

Ms. STEVENS. I just wish to make a short statement on the record now for myself and a letter will be forthcoming.

Senator MELCHER. That will be fine.

STATEMENT OF PAMELA STEVENS

Ms. STEVENS. As a Montana native and resident of the prairies most of my life and a health-care professional, I have given a lot of thought to the environmental issues. From the health care standpoint, I feel that maintaining an environment in the best possible way with wilderness supports health care. My reasoning for that is it seems irrational to me that we would want people to be healthy and have healthy lives, then put them in an environment that will destroy that from them. And because I feel that even psychologically the fact that Montana has wilderness that has been destroyed, it is a benefit to the people who cannot even participate in those benefits.

I just want to state that I support the alternate W proposal wholeheartedly, and I also recommend or support the S. 393 recommendations for the Big Snowys and the Middle Fork of the Judith River. I grew up in that area and spent a lot of time there, and the land there means a lot to me personally. I'm glad that it has received this designation and urge you to maintain that designation. Thank you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Before this panel leaves, I want to pursue a matter that I asked before.

Mr. Barker, do I understand correctly that your place is near the Deep Creek proposed wilderness area?

Mr. BARKER. Yes, that's correct, it's located in Mortimer Gulch just to the south of the Deep Creek proposed area.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Are you familiar with the petition that was circulated and has a considerable amount of signatures from people that are near—and I know, however, there aren't a lot of you that live up there—that was submitted to this committee by Mr. Salmond?

Mr. BARKER. I haven't had an opportunity to read it, but I am aware of some of the contents.

Mr. WILLIAMS. You haven't seen it?

Mr. BARKER. No, I have not read it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Are you familiar with the wilderness proposal which Mr. Salmond and Mr. Klick proposed to the committee?

Mr. BARKER. Only to the extent it was discussed while they were on the panel this morning.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Have you not seen a map of it?

Mr. BARKER. Well, I think I have seen basically some of the boundaries that have been proposed, yes, sir.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Are you supportive of those boundaries?

Mr. BARKER. Certainly I'm supportive of them, I want more than that. I feel that they are extremely limited in what they are encompassing.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Would those boundaries place your operation adjacent to the wilderness area?

Mr. BARKER. No.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Barker.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. That concludes this panel.

I'm going to take a recess, but I want to call the next panel so they are aware that we are going to be ready for them.

[Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.]

Senator MELCHER. Don Ostrem.

STATEMENT OF DONALD L. OSTREM, GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Mr. OSTREM. Senator Melcher, my testimony is going to be short, and it's based from a Great Falls standpoint. Speaking as an interested citizen of Great Falls, Mont., an active participant in community and area activity, and as an attorney whose practice is dependent upon the economy of the area, I support drafting and promotion of a wilderness omnibus bill which will designate national forest land use in Montana and declare the Forest Service RARE II study legally sufficient in Montana.

It is important that action be taken now to resolve incumbent problems and enact presently nationwide sufficiency and release legislation. Otherwise, additional reviews will continue at excessive cost and extreme delay. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Don.

Pat Wilson.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA WILSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER FOR THERMAL ENERGY AND MONTCO

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Pat Wilson, and I'm the public affairs manager for Thermal Energy and Montco. We are particularly interested in any discussions on wilderness designations, the additional study of potential wilderness areas, and sufficiency language regarding the RARE II process due to the Montco Mine's close proximity to the proposed Tongue River Breaks area. Montco holds both surface and coal leases on lands adjacent to the proposed Tongue River Breaks. Currently Montco is in the permitting stage of development on its first mining unit.

Since 1978, our companies have been involved in the RARE II process. Investigation into the process which led to the recommendation of the Tongue River Breaks as a wilderness area was ill conceived and hastily completed. The final decision was made by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler and was directly contrary to the advice of the local and regional Forest Service personnel who conducted the RARE II study. Mr. Cutler's irrational decision was also in direct contrast to strong local public opinion and recommendations by Montana State Governor, Tom Judge. The reopening of the RARE II process in the form of RARE III is just as ill conceived. To continue any type of wilderness process only leaves those directly involved with these proposed areas in a stagnant state of limbo. In our particular case, we contend that the draft land management plan for the Ashland Division of the Custer National Forest is a more realistic approach to the management of

the area. The favored alternative in the plan's environmental statement recommended to: "Orient management to provide for all groups of people with emphasis on those that are there now and those we expect to come there. Major program emphasis would be on livestock, range, recreation and timber management."

During the planning process of this Forest Service land management plan, careful attention and consideration was given to the concerns of local agencies and residents. Consistent with this multiple-use concept, in early 1983, the Bureau of Land Management released the area known as the Tongue River Breaks Contiguity from further wilderness study and designated it to multiple use. Therefore, in the case of the Tongue River Breaks, an additional review under a RARE III process would be both costly and unnecessary. The multiple-use concept is obviously more realistic and consistent with the surrounding land uses and the desire of the local residents. Presently we are working with Senator Melcher and the rest of the Montana delegation on the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act of 1983 which addresses the release of the Tongue River Breaks are from further study under RARE II back to its former multiple-use designation. But we would like this committee to be cognizant of the history of the Tongue River Breaks area because if the Lee Metcalf bill fails during House deliberation, we would like to see release language for the Tongue River Breaks in this proposed Montana wilderness bill. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Bob Gulbrandsen.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. GULBRANDSEN, GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Mr. GULBRANDSEN. Gentlemen of Congress, I'm Bob Gulbrandsen speaking for myself. I would like to note I'm a member of the National Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy.

There are two kinds of unfair restrictions upon the use of wilderness areas that I'm calling to your attention. One, the restriction in use of the wilderness to a special class or group of people, and two, the restriction upon commercial uses.

Theoretically, the use of wilderness is open to all people, but the required mode of access, walking or riding houseback, effectively restricts the users to those masochists who subject themselves to the agony of walking with backpacks or, what is to me equally painful, riding horseback. I am one of the masochists who walks, but my willingness to walk does not mean that I have a greater sense or appreciation of the beauty of nature than those who comprise a very large group of people who are physically incapable or simply do not include hiking or horseback riding in their lifestyles. I do not object to this restriction per se, it is the magnitude of the amount of land that is to be set aside for the use of a special group of people that creates unfairness for the populace in general and for Montanans in particular.

The only commercial use that is permitted in the wilderness areas that I am aware of is that of the outfitters who transport, by horse, groups of fishermen, hunters, and floaters into the areas. I understand that they lease campsites from the Forest Service for hunting and fishing parties and pay that State a fee for assigning

areas for hunting, in particular. Outside of hunting and fishing licenses, which are required of all fishermen and hunters whether in wilderness or any other area of the State, the wilderness areas, therefore, provide no State, Federal or private income except for that from the outfitters. Counties apparently receive 10 cents an acre in lieu of taxes from all U.S. Government land. Again, the issue is how much land should be set aside for this type of special use. The amount of wildernes land that has already been set aside is even now grossly unfair to Montanans.

Montanans make their living mostly from the basic industries of food production, lumbering, mineral production, and oil and gas production. These are land uses. When Montanans are denied the use of millions of acres of lands, they are denied sources of income while having to subsidize, through Federal and State taxes, the use of that land by a special group. The magnitude of wilderness areas is grossly unfair to Montanans. No more land should be designated as wilderness. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gulbrandsen follows:]

Robert A. Gulbrandsen
3815 4th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

What is a wilderness area? A pure idealist might conceive of it as an area in which nature in all of its glory is left free of the incursions of man. But wilderness idealists are not that pure; they want to be exceptions; they want to go into the wilderness, to use it for their intellectual and physical pleasures, but somehow not to affect or have any impact upon the wilderness. The entry of man, however, does violate the ideal; his harvesting and managing the fisheries, and his harvesting and managing the game animals are significant changes. From what I have read about Bob Marshall, I believe that his view of wilderness was close to the ideal, but the general concept of wilderness today speaks more of the "appearance of naturalism" than the fact or ideal. So uses of the wilderness are permitted so long as they do not mar the terrain. We have in Montana at this time, therefore, 3.1 million acres of wilderness that provide vistas of naturalism. I think, however, that aesthetic values are distorted if beauty is found only in vistas free of any sign of man's actions. To me, all of the mountainous terrains of Montana are beautiful, a road or ranch in these vistas is incidental to the dominating beauty. I do not believe that it is justified to restrict any more acres to wilderness in order to satisfy the aesthetic purists.

There are two kinds of unfair restrictions upon the use of wilderness areas that I am calling to your attention: (1), the restriction in use of the wilderness to a special class or group of people; and (2), the restriction upon commercial uses.

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users to those masochists who subject themselves to the agony of walking with backpacks, or, what is to me equally painful, riding horseback. I am one of the masochists who walks, but my willingness to walk does not mean that I have a greater sense or appreciation of the beauty of nature than those who comprise a very large group of people who are physically incapable or simply do not include hiking or horseback riding in their life styles. I do not object to this restriction per se; it is the magnitude of the amount of land that is to be set aside for the use of a special group of people that creates unfairness for the populace in general and for Montanans in particular.

The only commercial use that is permitted in the wilderness areas that I am aware of is that of the outfitters who transport, by horse, groups of fishermen, hunters, and floaters into the areas. I understand that they lease camp sites from the Forest Service for hunting and fishing parties and pay the state a fee for assigning areas for hunting, in particular. Outside of hunting and fishing licenses, which are required of all fishermen and hunters whether in wilderness or any other area of the state, the wilderness areas, therefore, provide no state, federal, or private income except for that from the outfitters. Counties apparently receive ~~then~~ ten cents an acre in lieu of taxes from all U. S. government land. Again, the issue is how much land should be set aside for this type of special use. The amount of wilderness land that has already been set aside is even now grossly unfair to Montanans.

Montanas make their living mostly from the basic industries of food production (grains, cattle and sheep), lumbering, mineral production, and oil and gas production. These are land uses. When Montanans are denied the use of millions of acres of land, they are denied sources of income while having to subsidize, through federal and state taxes, the use of that land

by a special group. The magnitude of wilderness areas is grossly unfair to Montanans.

The argument for wilderness has taken on new dimensions within something like the last twenty years; it now includes many environmental factors that are complex and difficult to assess. I deplore the Chicken Little policy of the wilderness groups on many of these issues. It implies a lack of perspective and judgement. Problems of threatened or endangered animals and plants, and the preservation of delicate ecosystems are real and need to be addressed. But these problems, individually or in total, do not automatically justify the setting aside of millions more of acres designated for wilderness. The problems need to be treated case by case and area by area whether a wilderness is involved or not.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Dennis Perry.

STATEMENT OF DENNY PERRY, PRESIDENT, CHOTEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. PERRY. Gentlemen, I am president of the Choteau Chamber of Commerce this year. We are a very active group. We had a meeting July 5, specifically for the purpose of discussing this subject. We had some 45 people there, everybody was interested, fairly knowledgeable, it was a lively discussion. We were able to arrive at three points which you are going to find repetitive, but perhaps that serves a purpose. Nevertheless, we as an organization came up with three things which we virtually all agreed upon, and this is applicable to the eastern Rocky Mountain Front which is our backyard. We don't feel we are knowledgeable in any other area.

No. 1, more wilderness areas are not needed. The 1½ million acres we now have in Montana is felt to be sufficient to serve the people who now use or will conceivably use it in the future. Wilderness is a very special type of recreation area which requires good health, a significant amount of time and expenditures for equipment which is unique to this type of recreation. Wilderness is, by and large, a young person's recreation; few senior citizens are benefiting directly.

No. 2, we must protect the wilderness that we now have. We do not need more wilderness, but do not want less. While it may be logical to know our resources of all kinds in all locations, it is too dangerous to give the bureaucrats any authority in this regard. Comply with the Montana Wilderness Act of 1964—no more resource exploration after December 1983.

And finally, No. 3, we should bring all of these wilderness questions on the eastern Rocky Mountain front to a conclusion. We have been spending dollars on studies for decades. The information

available is/must be sufficient to make required decisions. The elected officials must accept the responsibilities and authority they have been granted and make the required decisions; it is time to stop passing the buck. Whatever the decisions, provide sufficiency and release language for that property that is not put into wilderness. Too much property has been in a state of indecision for too long. Put it in wilderness or clearly put it back into multiple use. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Dennis.

George Berg.

STATEMENT OF GEROGE W. BERG, OWNER AND MANAGER, BERG LUMBER CO.

Mr. BERG. Senator and Congressmen. I represent myself and several other small lumbermill operators in the Lewistown area.

By limiting the amount of land that can be used for the harvest of timber, it puts too much pressure on the timber base that we now have and starts a terrible cycle. The large lumber companies overbid what little timber is put up. You see, it doesn't hurt them as they already own thousands of acres of timber and it just makes their standing timber worth that much more. This drives the smaller lumber operators out, causing the price of lumber to go up, which causes housing to go up. Overbidding also sets a base rate that is too high for the small lumberman to make it. Now, everyone says, what about the small business setaside sales?

You look at the definition of small business. It is 500 employees or less. That still doesn't help the small lumberman. He is being pushed out by big business, ecologists, and organizations with large sums of money putting pressure on the courts to take his timber base away.

Our forefathers saw this happening, so they set up a balance of power. How many believe we live in a democracy now? How many believe we live in a republic? The difference between a republic and a democracy is, let's say, some of us decide to cut your hair off. In a democracy under majority rule, we can do it. In a republic, everyone, no matter how small, has the right and is protected by the republic, and if you had the majority of votes, you still couldn't cut your hair off. The United States of America is a republic—if not, when we pledge allegiance to the flag and call it a republic with liberty and justice for all, then we are just hypocrites. We now have determined that the majority doesn't rule in the United States. In Montana, we are few people compared to the east coast and California, so why should these people be able to push us so hard and take away our timber base?

In my situation, my family has sawn lumber in this area for over 100 years. My grandfather sawed logs to make lumber for old Fort Miggines up in the Big Snowy Mountains. I have cut logs in the Forest Service in the Big Snowy Mountains, and there have been others: Luthers, Pratts, Evans, Cary's, Aldrich's, Kramlish's, and many others. Now, under big money pushing the courts, majority rule, and big business, they are proposing to put the Big Snowy Mountains in a primitive area. With the Big Snowy Mountains shut off, I have to go to Belt Mountains and bump heads with five

or six other lumbermen, and there isn't enough timber base there to support more than one mill. So it really puts a bind on the small lumberman. Now, the small lumberman doesn't have any big money to hire lawyers to push the California Supreme Court. By the time he pays his employees, workmen's compensation, social security, unemployment, State and county taxes and license, there isn't any money left.

The small lumberman doesn't receive any taxfree doations, so there isn't any money to hire lawyers. Under the Republic of the United States, I believe, big business, big organization for big money should not be able to set policy. There should be justice for all. Thank you.

And I would like to note here, too, that we have about 50 employees here in our mill.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, George.

Ken Hovestol.

STATEMENT OF KEN HOVESTOL, MONTANA SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Mr. HOVESTOL. Senator Melcher, members of the Montana delegation. I am Ken Hovestol, representing the Montana Snowmobile Association.

I was raised in Montana, spent most of my life in Montana. I like it here and I plan to stay here.

Montana Snowmobile Association is a group working on behalf of the nearly 200,000 Montanans who enjoy the sport of snowmobiling, representing a vast cross-section of people from all walks of life. We are concerned not only with the increasing loss of recreational land, but also with the loss of jobs and opportunity of our people that relate from land being held in limbo. Montana cannot attract the necessary investment capital until this land use issue is settled.

The senior citizens, motorized recreation provides a way for these people who for reason of age, illness, or injury cannot see and enjoy the wonders of our mountain scenery. They didn't lock us out, why should we lock them out? We are certainly pointing out the limited land available to the people, to the majority of Montanans, who are nonwilderness recreationalists. We don't want to come with our own version of alternative W or in any way try to make the decision for you. Rather, we want to participate in the decisionmaking process, to the Forest Service planning process as we have done. We agree with this process, and even though we disagree in a few of the areas, the data base and the authority used by the Forest Service was adequate.

In short, we have sufficiency language to represent from these hearings. In addition, we observe designated areas by the Forest Service as nonwilderness. In other words, no more further planning. We will be providing additional information on specific areas and further written testimony. Thank you for this opportunity to personally express the views of the Montana snowmobilers in Montana.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

This concludes this panel.

Kenneth Wall.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH WALL, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. WALL. Gentlemen, I'm from Missoula, Mont. I'm here today representating myself, not any organized group. I would first like to address a few general comments and talk to two specific areas. First, I think this is going to be the most important legislation in Montana's history. In talking to the panel previously, we don't need a RARE III, we need positive action by Congress and give-and-take compromises by all sides.

I support alternative W, the statewide omnibus RARE II bills. Also I support release nonwilderness for many years in the State, but preferably only for the next four planning cycles. In 15 years, we'll be approaching the turn of the next century, and I think that wilderness, we will be looking at it in a different view than now. I would hate to have and preclude wilderness designation forever. I think it's a gross over-reaction considering that only approximately 3 percent of this country is wilderness and only about 12 percent of Montana is wilderness. I think the tourist trade is going to become more important economically in Montana and that the wilderness will be much more important in the future. To develop wilderness is rarely irretrievable, once the roads are built it's no longer wilderness.

The two specific areas, one is on the Lewis and Clark Forest, the other is on the Lolo Forest. I am especially concerned about the Irish Basin, which is not included in the existing proposal. I take physically disabled persons and senior citizens into the Irish Basin, and we'll be continuing to do so. It is possible for them to get in there. Just to add a little note to that, there are approximately 80 groups around the country that are taking physically disabled people into wilderness areas. They are taking them mountain climbing, white water rafting, skiing. I think it's more a mental idea that these people can and do get into the wilderness.

The next area is the Deep Creek area. I have spent several weeks in there over the past several years, and I have explored every area. I feel Deep Creek is one of the most beautiful and, in my mind, candid areas in Montana. I think that Deep Creek has more wilderness qualities than anywhere in the Bob Marshall. It has the largest population of grizzly bears than anywhere in the Bob Marshall, and I think that it deserves protection. I don't think any amount of natural grass that could be found in there would deserve developing the Deep Creek area. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Don Marble.

STATEMENT OF DONALD R. MARBLE, ATTORNEY, CHESTER, MONT.

Mr. MARBLE. Senator Melcher, members of the congressional delegation. My name is Donald R. Marble. I live in Chester, Mont. I have given you a copy of my statement, so I think instead of reading it, I'll just kind of paraphrase some of the issues.

I have lived up on the Hi-Line for over 16 years, and before that in Missoula. I'm engaged in the practice of law in Chester, and I'm

here at my own time and expense. I'm not representing anyone else except myself. Before I went to law school and while I was in law school, I worked for the Forest Service for over six summers. Two of those summers I worked with a survey crew over in Idaho, and three summers as a smoke jumper in Missoula. During these periods I was fortunate to get into many of these wilderness areas and wilderness-candidate areas, so I'm acquainted generally with some of the areas. Since I have been living on the Hi-Line, I have become far more acquainted with the areas on the East Front and Glacier Park.

In the statement, I go into the fact I grew up in Michigan and I have lived out here quite a while. People in Montana don't really appreciate what rapid development does and can occur such as happened to my childhood home in Michigan. But for any of you who are sensitive to the needs of wilderness, I'm probably wasting my time to go into that. Either you know or you don't know.

I support Alternative W sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association and other conservation organizations, mainly because it provides for maximum wilderness. Once you lose it, you just can't, in most cases, get it back. So I think that's the way we ought to go. As far as the East Front area, I strongly support the Falls Creek proposed addition. I have hiked in this area quite a bit. There is beautiful lake areas, prime habitat for elk grazing. I personally am aware of this. The same is true for Renshaw Mountain. The same with Deep Creek and the other East Front proposed additions.

If we are going to have some kind of overall bill, I think it should provide for what they call soft release for the areas now included, because it's too critical and important a decision for us to say now that certain areas will never be wilderness. That's just too tough a decision for us to make forever for the future, and I don't see how we can do it. As far as some people's testimony, it's been a long slow expensive process, but it's better than going to hard release because it's an important decision.

In my private practice I do represent some oil companies in leasing and some in production. I see some of the oil companies, they don't want this wilderness because they want to lease it all. You can't, in our area. I talked to an oilman, he had to give up 40,000 acres the other day because nobody wanted the good development. You can't give away an oil lease unless there is an oil pump already sitting on it, if there is an oil pump sitting on it. Other than that, you just can't lease it. There is a lot of good drilling, and I think that's true of the whole Golden Triangle, unless you're right next to an oil well. There is no real evidence such as a lot of oil and gas up there, and I can't buy their argument that somebody has 16,000 acres, that's not very much. They can't sell the gas anyway, even if you have a take-or-pay contract with the power company. I understand they are just not even buying it. We just can't use it, so there is no demand for new gas fields and like that in Montana.

I guess I have talked too much, so unless somebody has some questions——

[The prepared statement of Mr. Marble follows:]

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July 9, 1983

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE

UNITED STATES SENATE

Providence Forum of the McLaughlin Center
College of Great Falls
Great Falls, Montana

Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Williams
and Representative Marlenee:

My name is Donald R. Marble. I live in Chester, Montana, with my spouse, Harriet, and my two sons, Jay and Justin. We have lived on the Hi Line of Montana for over sixteen years. In Chester, I am engaged in the private practice of law. Before moving to the Hi Line, we resided in Missoula for three years. I have been acquainted with Montana and Idaho Wilderness Areas and National Forests since 1957, which is over 26 years. It is with this background that I am presenting this testimony.

I was born and raised in Lower Michigan. In 1957, I came West to work for the U. S. Forest Service in the summer. For the summers of 1958, 1960, 1961, 1965, and 1966 I continued to work for the Forest Service. Two of these summers were with a survey crew and three of these summers were with the smoke jumpers out of Missoula. During these summers I became quite acquainted with many of the areas which were or are now wilderness, and also with some of the areas which surround them. In

more recent years I have become more acquainted with areas on the East Front and the areas near Glacier Park.

During the years that I was growing up in Lower Michigan, I was fortunate to live in a wooded and mainly undeveloped area. In visits back to my childhood home, the most recent of which was at the end of June, I observed some of the areas that I knew as a child. What a disappointment it is to see these formerly pristine areas gobbled up by subdivisions and industrial development. I could not see and can not see that the people who reside there now are any happier and indeed, the main concern seemed at time to be the most recent crime wave or where could one escape from all of the traffic. It is extremely difficult to explain to most Montana residents the rapidity with which a pristine area can disappear since the population of Montana is more stable, but I know because I have seen it happen.

It would seem to me very likely that our Senators and Congressmen who love the solitude and beauty of our great state might appreciate this point because of necessity of living in the District of Columbia.

As regards the proposals before us today, I support Alternative W sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association and by other conservation organizations. It is so easy to allow development in such areas, and all but impossible to reclaim them for wilderness in most instances.

In the East Front area, I vigorously support the Falls Creek proposed addition. I have hiked in this area. There are some beautiful pristine lakes in this area, and the area is prime habitat for elk and other wildlife. The same can be said for the Renshaw Mountain area. I am personally aware that Grizzly Bears inhabit these areas and nothing seems more important to me than to protect the habitat of our State animal. The Deep Creek and other East Front proposed additions are of the same nature and also deserving of wilderness designation.

Protection of these areas included in Alternative W by a Montana Wildernes Bill would be a great development for all of the people of Montana, even for those who for various reasons can not appreciate the future significance and benefits of such matters. On the other hand, it seems to me that it would not be wise to forever and finally and legally designate any lands as not suitable for wilderness designation. It is simply too difficult to forsee all of the possible needs of future generations, especially when it is related to wilderness and natural needs.

Thank you for allowing me to present this testimony.

Donald R. Marble

Donald R. Marble

Senator MELCHER. Harriet Marble.

STATEMENT OF HARRIET M. MARBLE, PRESIDENT, MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL

Ms. MARBLE. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Representative Williams and Marlenee. I'm Harriet Marble of Chester. I'm president of the Montana Audubon Council. There are eight chapters of the Audubon Society in Montana, with a membership statewide of over 4,000. We thank our Montana Delegation for this opportunity to present our position regarding future wilderness area considerations in Montana.

Individual Montana Audubon chapters and members have and will be presenting testimony regarding the various areas of proposed wilderness additions with which they are familiar. I am here to state as president of the Montana Audubon Council that our statewide organization representing all chapters favors alternative W which would add additional areas to existing wilderness areas and would create 21 new areas.

The Audubon Society advocates protection of our wild lands, the valuable watersheds, and wildlife. Wilderness designation for the few remaining undeveloped and pristine areas is extremely necessary if we are to be successful in attaining our goals of protecting the wild lands, watersheds and wildlife.

Wilderness areas in Montana have long been the haven for most of the few remaining grizzly populations in the continental United States. The Audubon Society nationwide considers the protection of the grizzly one of their top priorities, and habitat protection through designation of appropriate areas as wilderness will assure that the Montana State animal will not go the way of other State animals such as the animal on the flag of the State of California. The National Audubon Society has made clear their concern for the grizzly by the offering of a $15,000 reward for evidence leading to the conviction of grizzly poaching.

Wilderness is also the home to numerous birds for which we are especially concerned. Pileated woodpeckers are an example of a bird which requires old growth or large decaying trees for a food source as well as for nesting sites. In developed areas, these trees are most generally removed, thereby destroying the needed habitat for these interesting birds. Wilderness with trees often over 200 years old provide the best assurance of the survival of this species.

Wilderness areas also serve as a reservoir where animal and plant species can exist basically undisturbed by man and his developments. Thus, wilderness areas are in effect great outdoor laboratories where nature can continue experiments started millions of years ago. Man's interference with these laboratories and the animals and plants that inhabit them has led many of them to their extinction. We should do all that we can to try to reverse this destructive process.

We submit that we need action to protect our few remaining unspoiled lands. In addition, our organization urges that the concept of soft release be adopted for the remaining millions of acres not designated as wilderness by this Congress. We believe that areas

not considered appropriate for wilderness today should not be excluded from this wilderness designation forever.

The Montana Audubon Council thanks you for the opportunity to speak regarding Montana wilderness additions.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you. Arlo Skari.

STATEMENT OF MARLO SKARI, LIBERTY COUNTY, MONT.

Mr. SKARI. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, and Congressman Marlenee. My name is Arlo Skari, a farmer-rancher from Liberty County testifying in support of the proposals put forth by the Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Council as pertaining to the Rocky Mountain Front area. In specific, I am recommending for wilderness category the following areas: Deep Creek, Silver King-Falls Creek, and Renshaw Mountain.

This is simply too beautiful an area to let go to helter-skelter development, and should be preserved so countless generations can enjoy it as we do today. A country that can afford billions for defense, for PIK programs, moon shots, and alcohol consumption should be able to afford a few acres in the most beautiful primitive area in the world. The economic benefits leaving it as it is are considerable. A source of unpolluted water for our cities and farms and the vast recreational uses with its supporting business. There is much talk of too much wilderness in many publications and especially in farm magazines, but of course, they do not know that the amount of wilderness in relation to the country as a whole is insigificant. We have too much drugs, booze, crime, gettos, polution, poverty, and preparations for war, but never too much wilderness. It's like money in the bank, if needed in a emergency it is there.

There is a great deal of pressure from the oil and gas interests, and it is logical to assume they would want to look if they think it exists, but the damage to the system from the explorations, the roads and disruption to the wildlife far outweigh anything they can find there. What they would find would not fuel the commuters of Los Angeles County for a month. America has shown what it can do with conservation and it is prepared to do much more.

Recently in Liberty County, a group of people got together to see what they can do to improve hunting and fishing in the area. Much of the decline in the quality of hunting and fishing is due to the intensive management of the land by farmers and ranchers in the quest to make a decent living. Unfortunately, the more efficient they get, the more surplus is produced as evidenced by the PIK program. The quality of our streams and habitats, however, suffer the most and for no logical reason. That is why we must keep roads and machines out of these primitive areas if we want to preserve them for our children and our children's children. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Revcerend Severns.

STATEMENT OF REV. JACK SEVERNS

Reverend SEVERNS. Gentlemen, thank you for coming and listening to all of us, I know it must be a drag. I speak for myself and I do favor the alternative W, as I believe in the long run it will be

the most reasonable and farsighted of the proposals of the different areas.

I would like to address most of my comments to the Rocky Mountain Front and those areas adjacent to it that are up for consideration to the wilderness system. The areas under consideration, the three areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall are an attempt by knowledgeable persons to augment a policy favorable to the species native to the northern Rockies. Many factors add up to the uniqueness of the region as far as wildlife habitat is concerned. Weather patterns which keep the eastern and adjoining high plains relatively snow-free and the availability of adequate food and space for the large animals such as sheep, grizzly bear and elk. Nowwhere else in the lower 48 States do these numbers of wildlife live in this region, including the adjoining Bob Marshall Wilderness. We must underline that word unique. We are in fact dealing with a natural treasure as far as wildlife is concerned, and each dimension of this ecosystem is entltled to existence as a whole.

The ecosystem in my way of thinking is from threats, not from the farmers and ranchers in the area, but from economical and industrial development. We are not just dealing with exploration of commercial values, because as found, exploration means development. It will change the whole character of the area and seriously jeopardize the viability of the land by use of the big game species, which are our natural treasure.

Gentlemen, the wilderness concept does not lock out picnickers or those wishing to take a walk for a day or fish a creek for an afternoon. What would seriously impede these activities would be landscapes of oil rigs and roads with locked gates saying no admission to the public. I strongly oppose oil and gas exploration and development along the Rocky Mountain Front. I do support alternative W, as I stated in the beginning. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jerry Berner.

STATEMENT OF JERRY BERNER, LOMA, MONT.

Mr. BERNER. Thank you for the opportunity to comment here today. First I want to express my support for wilderness designation on the Line Creek Plateau and in Lost Water Canyon of the Custer Forest. About 1,500 acres of Forest Service wildland just east and adjacent to Lost Water Canyon are contiguous with a BLM wilderness recommendation, and should not be released from wilderness consideration. I have shaded this area red on an attached map.

With wilderness recommendations by three agencies, the entire Pryor Mountains/Big Horn Canyon Wilderness complex could be designated soon with one effort. Neither the Forest Service or BLM plan any improvements in the Wild Horse Range. Economic conflict is nil.

I also support the designation of a new wilderness area in the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek country along the Smith River. This area is important big game winter range and a popular recreation area.

I have farmed and ranched with my family most of my life on the plains. Being sort of a flatlander, I have always marveled at

the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountain Front. For me, this country where the mountains and praires meet is the best of both worlds. For the diverse and abundant wildlife, it is one home with the whole being necessary for their survival. The habitat and solitude of the inner mountains is protected for wildlife. The State of Montana and the Nature Conservancy are protecting vital lowlands. The large game herds and endangered species are reason enough to complete this protection and I strongly support the wilderness protection of 224,000 acres in five wild areas of the Rocky Mountain Front.

Consider an alternative of roading and development. Do we really want to create a timber industry on the front? Do we think we have to? The forests are largely noncommercial. The subalpine forests are generally young, slower growing on the drier east side, and in narrow, deep canyons amid the jagged peaks. The deficit timber sales proposed in the Elk Creek and Petty Creek drainages of the Falls Creek addition and in the watershed of the Teton River are particularly disturbing. I urge you to include them in the wilderness additions.

Except for local uses, no timber industry exists today on the front. A healthy ranching, outfitting, and recreation industry does exist. The proposed wilderness additions have been used as wilderness for generations. Roads and developments in these wild areas could do economic harm to these family businesses. The chances of locating significant energy reserves in the front appear remote but the search would produce the same negative results to wildland-based businesses.

Also, the irrigators between the mountains and Missouri River depend on a reliable water supply from this undisturbed but fragile watershed. Water lost would cost the farmer. Deterioration of health wildlife populations would be a loss. Demand for wilderness recreation is soaring and wilderness lost puts greater pressure on wilderness saved.

I hope you will consider the net benefits possible from preserving these five Rocky Mountain Front areas as wilderness, and not just the benefits we can expect in our lifetimes, but the long-term benefit to future generations as well. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Linda Anderson.

STATEMENT OF LINDA STOLL-ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ms. ANDERSON. Thank you. Senators Melcher and Baucus and Representatives Williams and Marlenee, my name is Linda Stoll-Anderson, and I reside at 619 First Street, in Helena. I am one of three Lewis and Clark County commissioners, and my comments are on behalf of the commission.

Clearly, the issue of what to do with the lands inventoried under the ill-fated RARE II process has become one of the most controversial public lands problems that Congress must resolve. As local, elected officials, we can appreciate the difficult decisions that you will be required to make regarding the designation and disposition

of these roadless areas, not just in the State of Montana but throughout the country.

Because our county has within its boundaries vast amounts of roadless public lands, we are cognizant of the impacts your decisions will have on Lewis and Clark County. As evidenced by the enclosed resolutions, we have expressed our commitment to the protection of a portion of these areas. The first resolution expresses support for the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness areas and adjacent wildlands. It is an expression of opposition to seismic exploration in what is referred to as the Bob Marshall country.

The second resolution supports wilderness areas in the county, specifically recommending inclusion of Renshaw Mountain, the Falls Creek-Silver King unit to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and that Big Log Gulch be included in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness.

It is our belief that the many long lasting and stable benefits to be derived from wilderness designation, including economic, recreation, and wildlife amenities, cannot be outweighed by the immediate and short-lived gains made by oil, gas, and mineral development.

Of additional concern to the commission is the question mark in our minds as to the disposition of the proposed Elkhorn Wilderness area. We realize that this area is not in Lewis and Clark County, however, there can be no doubt as to its popularity with county residents, particularly those living within the Helena area. We wish to take this opportunity to express support for the protection of this very important recreational area.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns about RARE II.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jay Vest.

STATEMENT OF JAY VEST, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. VEST. Greetings honored Montana delegation, my name is Jay Vest, I'm from Missoula. In Montana and in America, freedom is a sacred cry. Freedom and wilderness are deply—realistically—called a part of the geography of the home, thus that means new land for new things. Wilderness has satisfied these needs to be different, to change, to reform. I think these two concepts have much in common. In the deepest differentiation, wilderness means the will of the land. It means it represents will, willfulness, and the uncontrollable limits which are themselves fundamental to freedom. Furthermore, it is the absence from the power over another. If not, it is the end of will.

Our country is founded upon an ethics of respect and concern for the individuals, in order to maximize individual will, freedom. Conversely, the obvious union is founded upon a notion of the maximization for utility of the good of the State, and there can be no exceptions. All are to be considered as a resource by both human and otherwise. Consequently, independent will and freedom are maximized. As a result, we in America enact countless bills to insure our will, our freedom. The wilderness is a cornerstone of freedom,

we must acknowledge it as the greatest in wild places. Only recently are we becoming aware of the role wilderness plays in advancing social values. Furthermore, we understand the incompatibility of wilderness with totalitarianism system where everything is controlled and there is no public place to go.

We had our experiences in Vietnam and other places. The freedom of the wild is the freedom which spirited us to emerge as a nation. Wilderness has indeed given us freedom. Freedom cannot replace itself and its gift to our wilderness. If our land becomes domesticated and void of its will, our freedom, what strength will we have with which to oppose totalitarianism? I urge you to adopt alternative W as a moderate and reasonable proposal, one that should not be further compromised. And I urge soft release for the remaining three areas. I thank you for your patience.

[Resolutions supplied for the record follow:]

RESOLUTION 1982 -7

SUPPORT OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service is responsible for making recommendations to the Secretary of Interior regarding applications for oil, gas, and mineral leases on National Forests; and

WHEREAS, in a letter to the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners, dated December 21, 1981, the Forest Service requested comments on proposed leases on units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, certain wilderness study areas, and recommended wilderness additions; and

WHEREAS, the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Areas are located partially or entirely within Lewis and Clark County, as are three (3) areas recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness area addition; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 1981, the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 1981-9, "Support of the Bob Marshall Country," thereby entering the record opposition to exploration and leasing in the Bob Marshall Country, defined in the Resolution as "the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness Areas and adjacent wildlands"; and

WHEREAS, as a result of an extensive planning process and much public input, the Forest Service has officially recommended that three (3) areas be added to existing Wilderness Areas in Lewis and Clark County: "Renshaw Mountain" to become part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness; "Falls Creek/Silver King" to become part of the Scapegoat Wilderness, and "Big Log Gulch" to become part of the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, established Wilderness Areas in Lewis and Clark County are long-lasting, stable sources of income and employment in Lewis and Clark County by means of outfitting, tourism, hunting, fishing, and related enterprises; and

WHEREAS, additions recommended for Wilderness designation by the Forest Service are integral components of wilderness habitat and are invaluable supplemental acreages to formally protected areas for purposes of prime grizzly bear habitat (Renshaw Mountain) and popular, high-use recreation areas (upper Dearborn River addition to Scapegoat and Big Log Gulch addition to Gates of the Mountains, which includes Refrigerator Canyon, Big Log Gulch, and the eastern shore of the Missouri River in the "gates" of that river); and

WHEREAS, vast areas of public lands have been leased in Lewis and Clark County, the State of Montana, and the United States, and the acreages contained in existing Wilderness Areas is small by comparison; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of estimated potentially producible oil and gas within federally-owned lands that exists within Wilderness Areas is minimal; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas exploration in Wilderness Areas would possibly give cause for roads, disruption of wildlife habitat, degradation of expansive natural settings, and conflict with existing businesses and enterprises dependent on undistrubed wilderness land;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners believes that many lasting and stable benefits come from wilderness areas, including economical, recreational, and wildlife amenities, and that these durable benefits outweigh the immediate and short-lived gains to be made by oil, gas, or mineral development on said areas;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners goes on record in opposition to oil, gas and mineral leasing or exploration on lands in Lewis and Clark County designated as wilderness or recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service, Regional Forester, and Montana Congressional delegation.

DATED this 27th day of January, 1982.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

Bob Decker

Bob Decker, Chairman

Chris Gariner

John B. Elkinson

ATTEST:

Helen Lovitch, Clerk of the Board

RESOLUTION 1981- 9

SUPPORT OF THE BOB MARSHALL COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness Areas and adjacent wildlands, referred to as the Bob Marshall Country, comprise one of the largest and most spectacular natural areas in the lower 48 states, and

WHEREAS, the Bob Marshall Country is the most historic, most naturally diverse, and is truly the crown jewel of our nation's wilderness system, and

WHEREAS, protection of the Bob Marshall Country is essential to the local, regional, and state economics of Montana, and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars of new money is attracted each year by the Bob Marshall Country by means of outfitting, tourism, and related industries, and

WHEREAS, the Bob Marshall Country is threatened by speculative exploration for unproved sources of natural gas, and

WHEREAS, proposals for seismic exploration and oil and gas leases in the Bob Marshall Country could cause havoc to local economies, especially Helena and Lewis and Clark County, with a subsequent loss of stable long-term jobs in the outfitting, tourism, and related industries, and

WHEREAS, residents of Helena and Lewis and Clark County make extensive use of the Bob Marshall Country for recreational purposes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lewis and Clark County Commission goes on record in opposition to the unnecessary and potentially destructive exploration and leasing of any portion of the Bob Marshall Country, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service, Regional Forester, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

DATED this 17th day of February, 1981

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

John H. Wilkinson, Chairman

Chris Gardner

Bob Decker

ATTEST:

Helen Kovich, Clerk of the Board

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. This concludes this panel.
Colleen Sigley.

STATEMENT OF COLLEEN SIGLEY, AMOCO PRODUCTION CO.

Ms. SIGLEY. My name is Colleen Sigley, and I represent Amoco Production Co., a subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of Indiana. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments for this record and especially appreciate you coming to Montana to receive them.

We know you have heard many times that because of the nature of energy resources and because of the competitive nature of our industry, individual oil companies cannot provide specific information about the existence of energy resources in certain areas. In trying to be as responsive as possible to your request for information, we asked our geologists to provide geologic favorability ratings for Montana RARE II areas. In ratings of high, medium, and low, show the potential for oil and gas based on what we think we know today. We hope the ratings will be useful as part of your information base for comparison, but we must insist they not be used as a definitive indication of the presence or absence of energy resources. The ratings only apply to possible oil and gas, they do not relate to other mineral resources. You'll find the ratings on the maps attached to my statement as exhibit A. The designation of an area as wilderness is seen by most people as a permanent land use. In areas where there is moderate to high geological favorability for oil and gas, it is an important part of long-term decisionmaking to keep options open for mineral evaluation, including drilling. There are no such options in wilderness. Amoco includes in its exploration and production budgets substantial sums for environmental protection and reclamation. In leased areas where we plan drilling operations, we are fully cooperative in studies which are preliminary to approval of applications for permits to drill, such as archaeological surveys, and threatened and endangered species evaluations. Further, the public doesn't know that special environmental protection stipulations are attached to leases in many areas. By signing these stipulations, the companies agree to conform to the strict environmental protection restrictions for each of these areas. It is absolutely not true that a lease is a license for environmental destruction.

Amoco Production Co. continues to support the permanent statutory release of nonsuitable lands for nonwilderness uses. For our corporate planning, we need to know where we can operate. Permanent release is the best way to provide a reasonable measure of management security. We also continue to support language declaring the RARE II final environmental impact statement legally and factually sufficient. A decade of wilderness suitability study is enough. We look forward to a return to management of national forests for all uses for all the people.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. This is not my full testimony, but you will find it in the written testimony. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sigley follows:]

My name is Colleen Sigley. I represent Amoco Production Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company (Indiana). We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments for this Record, and especially appreciate you coming to Montana to receive them.

We know you have heard many times that because of the nature of energy resources, and because of the competitive nature of our industry, individual oil companies cannot provide specific information about the existence of energy resources in certain areas. The Overthrust Belt experience is <u>our</u> best example of how "what we think we know" changes with time, technology, and new ideas.

The western Overthrust Belt, a good part of which is in Montana, was considered a drillers' graveyard by the oil and gas industry prior to the 1975 discovery of the Pineview Field in Northeastern Utah. We now know that a great deal of energy can be produced from very small areas of this complex geologic feature. One reason is our sophisticated data processing of seismic information. The computer methods we use simply weren't available a few years ago.

Since 1975, the net addition to known reserves in the Overthrust Belt has been remarkable, and this vast energy resource is concentrated in less than 1/2 of 1 percent of the total land area in the Thrust Belt. Amoco's Whitney Canyon Plant alone will produce enough natural gas yearly to supply the annual heating and cooling requirements for half a million homes.

IN SHORT, WITHDRAWAL OF EVEN SMALL AREAS IN THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE MINERAL INFORMATION IS CLEARLY NOT ADVISABLE.

IN TRYING TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, WE ASKED OUR GEOLOGISTS TO PROVIDE GEOLOGIC FAVORABILITY RATINGS FOR MONTANA RARE II AREAS. THE RATINGS OF "HIGH", "MEDIUM", AND "LOW" SHOW THE POTENTIAL FOR OIL AND GAS BASED ON "WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW" TODAY. WE HOPE THE RATINGS WILL BE USEFUL AS PART OF YOUR INFORMATION BASE FOR COMPARISON, BUT WE MUST INSIST THEY NOT BE USED AS A DEFINITIVE INDICATION OF THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF ENERGY RESOURCES. THE RATINGS ONLY APPLY TO POSSIBLE OIL AND GAS; THEY DO NOT RELATE TO OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES. YOU'LL FIND THE RATINGS ON THE MAPS ATTACHED TO MY STATEMENT AS EXHIBIT "A".

THE DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS WILDERNESS IS SEEN BY MOST PEOPLE AS A PERMANENT LAND USE. IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS MODERATE TO HIGH GEOLOGICAL FAVORABILITY FOR OIL AND GAS, IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF LONG-TERM DECISION MAKING TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN FOR MINERAL EVALUATION, INCLUDING DRILLING. THERE ARE NO SUCH OPTIONS IN WILDERNESS. AMOCO INCLUDES IN ITS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION BUDGETS SUBSTANTIAL SUMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RECLAMATION. IN LEASED AREAS WHERE WE PLAN DRILLING OPERATIONS, WE ARE FULLY COOPERATIVE IN STUDIES WHICH ARE PRELIMINARY TO APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL, SUCH AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS, AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES EVALUATIONS. FURTHER, THE PUBLIC DOESN'T KNOW THAT SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STIPULATIONS ARE ATTACHED TO LEASES IN MANY AREAS. BY SIGNING THESE STIPULATIONS, THE COMPANIES AGREE TO CONFORM TO THE STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RESTRICTIONS FOR EACH OF THESE AREAS.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE THAT A LEASE IS A LICENSE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION.

AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PERMANENT STATUTORY RELEASE OF NON-SUITABLE LANDS FOR NON-WILDERNESS USES. FOR OUR CORPORATE PLANNING, WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE WE CAN OPERATE. PERMANENT RELEASE IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE MEASURE OF MANAGEMENT SECURITY. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE DECLARING THE RARE II FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT LEGALLY AND FACTUALLY SUFFICIENT. A DECADE OF WILDERNESS SUITABILITY STUDY IS ENOUGH. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A RETURN TO MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FORESTS FOR ALL USES FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

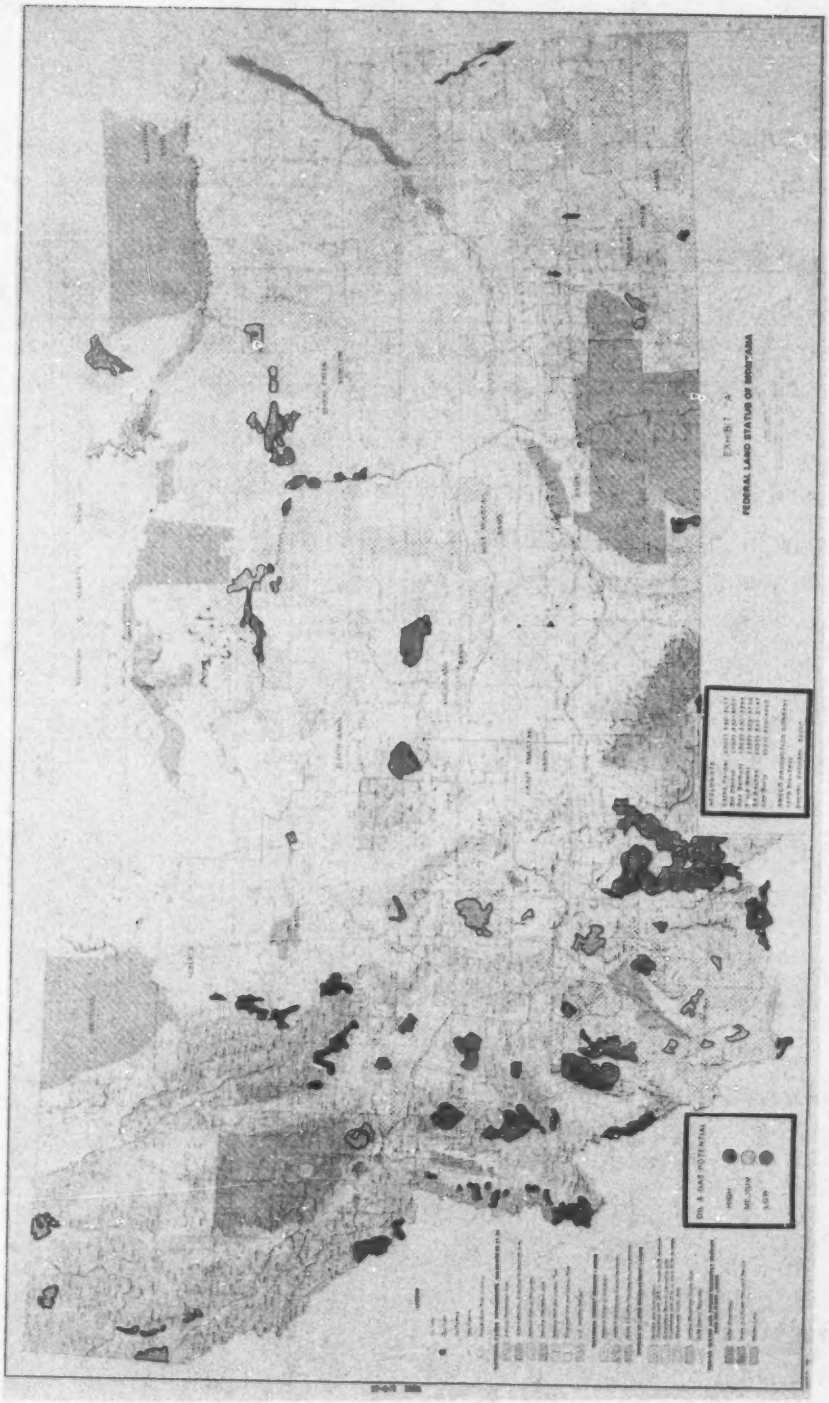
EXHIBIT A
FEDERAL LAND STATUS OF MONTANA
OIL & GAS POTENTIAL
HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW

EXHIBIT "B"

STANDARD OIL COMPANY (INDIANA)

State Statistical Summary

State of Montana
Data as of December 31, 1981

EMPLOYMENT

Total number of employees	195
Standard Oil	
Amoco Production	
Amoco Oil	3
Amoco Minerals	192
Amoco International	
Amoco Chemicals	
Wages and benefits paid ($M)	5,267
Number of annuitants	65
Employee concentrations (by county)	Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone

SHAREHOLDERS

Number of stockholders	610
Divident payments ($M)	739
Number of royalty owners	435
Royalty payments ($M)	1,974

TAXES (State and Local) ($M)

Taxes paid	1,919
Excise taxes collected	1,432
Severence Tax	1,019

EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES ($M)

Onshore (Production)	20,037
Offshore Federal waters (Production)	
Offshore-State waters (Production)	
Minerals	1,216
Lease Payments (Production & Minerals)	1,486

CAPITAL OUTLAYS ($M)

Plant, equipment, and all other	9,271
Lease bonuses-Federal	640
Lease bonuses-other	1,761

FACILITIES

Net wells owned	61.85
Natural gasoline and cycling plants operated by APC	
Refineries	
Chemical plants	
Miles of pipeline	
Marketing offices (all subsidiaries)	1
Administrative offices	1
Mineral processing plants and mines	5
Production District Offices	

MARKETING OUTLETS (Amoco Oil)

Branded gasoline outlets	
dealer-operated	
jobber operated	79
company-operated	
Number of jobbers	88
Fertilizer and LPG plants	
Terminals	
Warehouses	

OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS (Net)

Crude and NGL production (B/D)	1,347
Natural gas production (MMCF/D)	0.995
Refinery output (B/D)	

Facilities by Subsidiary
State of Montana

AMOCO MINERALS COMPANY

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company
(1st District)
Function: Talc milling
Address: P. O. Box 977
Three Forks, MT 59752

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company -
Yellowstone Mine
Function: Talc mining
Address: Cameron, MT 59720

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company -
Beaverhead Mine
Function: Talc mining
Address; Dillion, MT

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company
(1st District)
Function: Administrative office
Address: P. O. Box 516
Ennis, MT 59729

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company
Function: Lab
Address: P. O. Box 459
Phillipsburg, MT 59850

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
J. H. Clement.

STATEMENT OF JAMES CLEMENT, MANAGER OF GEOLOGY AND NORTHERN DISTRICT EXPLORATION MANAGER, SHELL OIL CO.

Mr. CLEMENT. Senator Melcher, distinguished members of the committee. My name is James Clement. I am manager of geology and northern district exploration manager in Shell Oil Co's Rocky Mountain exploration and production division organization. I might add that I am a native son of Montana, born, reared, educated, and graduated from Montana Tech. Though I reside in Texas, this is still home. I appreciate the opportunity to appear today and present our views on the Big Snowys area of the Lewis and Clark Forest.

Shell believes that the Big Snowy area has considerable potential to become a hydrocarbon producing province. Shell has conducted additional geological and geophysical field studies since the 1980 USGS study results were published Our geological studies probed the oil and gas potential of the area, and the geophysical studies obtained data on the structural configurations. The results are encouraging. They prompt us to conclude that the southern portion of the Big Snowys is geologically similar to other Rocky Mountain Basin margins where industry is now exploring and where oil and gas discoveries already have been made.

I am here today principally to support the Forest Services' determination for multiple use of the Big Snowys area. Mr. W. H. Broman, general manager of Shell's Rocky Mountain exploration and production division, made a similar statement before the Forest Services' hearing, December 8, 1982. We have maintained close cooperation with the Forest Service staff and have shown them on a proprietary basis our technical assessments of this area. We are prepared to continue this type of cooperation with the technical staff of appropriate Government agencies.

We would continue these studies if the Big Snowys area is designated for multiple use and if oil and gas leases can ultimately be issued. We estimate that this program of exploration would lead to a decision on a test well in about 2 years.

Shell's seismic work to date has employed the vibroseis method and has been restricted to roads and trails in the area. We believe that this work has not caused significant adverse environmental impacts. Future work would require employment of portable methods including helicopters, this would have virtually no adverse impact on the area.

I can further assure you that Shell is committed to conduct all of its operations in a responsible manner that provide adequate environmental safeguards. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.
Owen Bentley.

STATEMENT OF OWEN BENTLEY, BRAND S CORP.

Mr. BENTLEY. Mr. Chairman and members of the delegation, my name is Owen Bentley. I work for Brand S Corp. which operates a sawmill in Livingston, Mont. It is our hope that the hearings result

in legislation that finally settles how the Federal lands of Montana will be managed. At the present time, the amount of timber the Forest Service will be able to sell us is in question. The Forest Service sales are being withdrawn, and it's made it hard for us to do our planning. Because we have modernized the mill, spent the money to modernize the mill, we have been able to operate through the recent depression. It's our intent to keep on as long as we have the technology that allows you to keep operating as an efficient mill. However, it gets harder and harder to convince the bankers that they ought to loan you money to modernize a mill when you can't really point to any stable timber supply. This is a constant concern to us, because we plan to be in the milling business for as long as there is timber available.

I would urge you again to include in any legislation that might result from these hearings, some good finality in the planning process. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Ken Lamping.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS OGLE, HELENA, MONT.

Mr. OGLE. Senator, my name is Dennis Ogle, I'm filling in for Ken Lamping. Senator Melcher, distinguished members of the panel, my name is Dennis Ogle. I reside in Helena, Mont. I am a third generation Montanan. My great grandfather was a railroad ticket agent in Belgrade, Mont., and he was killed in a robbery in 1893. My grandfather ranched in the Bozeman area until his death in 1960. My dad is a retired rail engineer, and I ended up in the grocery business.

On weekends our family has always spent enjoying the recreational splendors of Montana. As weekend miners, we panned approximately 10 ounces of gold in the Lower Belt Mountains. We enjoy hunting, fishing, or just driving through the forests. We bought our first snowmobile in 1965 when our children were still at home, and we have had as many as five. I have seen Montana change with the seasons for 42 years, but for me under a blanket of pure white and blue skies overhead, she is never more beautiful now.

I am past president of our local snowmobile club, which I am representing over 257 members today. We believe the data and process used by the Forest Service for making the recommendations was adequate. Areas designated for wilderness, we do not agree on. We feel we already have enough wilderness. We ask that the areas designated as nonwilderness be released for multiple use. We support the position taken by the Montana Snowmobile Association, which you heard earlier. Thank you very much.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Bob Bushnell.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT BUSHNELL, HELENA, MONT.

Mr. BUSHNELL. Senator Melcher and members of the committee, my name is Robert Bushnell. I live in Helena, Mont. My grandparents homesteaded in the St. Peters Mission area just west of Great Falls in 1903. My parents have lived in the Helena area all of their lives and enjoyed the public lands for recreation and the motorized

access since they could not spend more than 1 day away from their small grocery store.

My family uses the public lands for scenic recreation, mushroom gathering, berry picking, hunting, snowmobiling, using areas 1-485 bordering the Bob Marshall-Scapegoat Wilderness, 1-601 through 1-606, which surround our cabin near Lincoln, 1-607 through 1-618 just southwest and northeast of Helena, 1-620 Tizer Lakes area, and 1-734 the Little Belt area southeast of Great Falls. Over the period of the past 25 years, I have used these areas of Montana at least 20 days per year hunting, 8 days per year gathering mushrooms, 12 days per year picking berries, and no less than 20 days per year for the past 8 years snowmobiling. This doesn't include the four weekend outings a year when our Boy Scout Troop also uses these areas, and can do so only because they are open and readily accessible. This is no less than 60 days a year I use these areas.

I feel that the RARE II study was sufficient, and the lands in the above-mentioned areas be released so I can continue to utilize these areas and have these public lands available for future generations to enjoy their opportunities to the fullest. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. I believe that concludes this panel. I want to thank you all.

Becky Blythe, that puts you first.

STATEMENT OF BECKY BLYTHE

Ms. BLYTHE. I'm here on a research project out of San Francisco State University. We are part of an environmental study group. We are from various States, and as citizens of the United States we are concerned about our Federal public lands in Montana. Many of the people on this trip are from urbanized environments, and Montana is one of the few places that offers the recreational opportunities to study wilderness in its true form. Yesterday we were in Helena, and within 2 hours we were in the true wilderness environment. We spotted about 100 elk that had calving grounds in the area. This is in the east front of the Rocky Mountain portion that is not now wilderness designated. This area is crucial to the elk, and now the proposal in alternative W includes this area based on its geographical ecosystem rather than just an arbitrary line that exists in the Bob Marshall area. We sighted mountain lion, and this is something very unique in this world, especially for those who come from other States besides Montana. We cannot expect wildlife, particularly big game to exist in absence of the wilderness region, and that must be taken into account. Argument to develop the last of our natural resources never has acknowledged what the consequences of that development might be. What about our entire society dependent upon nonrenewable resources, leaving the future uncertain. Alternatives are now available as far as employment goes.

I have noticed here after much testimony, that many factors are used which express our industrial society, yet wilderness is given as a blame to fight improvement or employment. People want lands preservation toward a more fulfilling and quality lifestyle. The solar wind cycle conservation and appropriate technology that

have not even been explored are a stable activity that offers employment and a future for our posterity to work with matters representing life maintaining diversity in a genetic pool rather than just maintaining it, is the type of future that I want for my children. As far as scientific exploration and educational opportunities, these are dependent upon wildlands such as Montana offers, so we can study them and learn how natural ecosystems work. A lot has to be learned, although, a lot is learned now.

I will submit a written statement that goes into more detail than I had time to give here. Thank you for your time.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jo Bruner.

STATEMENT OF JO BRUNER, WOMEN INVOLVED IN FARMING ECONOMICS

Ms. BRUNER. Senator Melcher, members of the committee, my name is Jo Bruner. I'm speaking today for the Women Involved in Farming Economics organization.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, it is the desire of the WIFE organization to preserve not only agricultural land for agricultural use in order to continue to provide food for our State, the Nation, and the world, but to preserve the magnificence of our natural wonders for the enjoyment of our State, our Nation, and our world, however we do that. Beneficial programs in existence are as important in need of continuance as the preservation of wildlife and preserving the beauty of the land.

We believe that human inhabitation and industry is not necessarily bad. We are important to our society, and we think that we can coexist with nature for the benefit of all concerned. We believe also that the time is long past for making decisions. Our members have been participating through the years with testimony and correspondence, and the WIFE organization hopes that by the time these hearings are over, enough information will be gained to make decisions that will not be detrimental to other interests necessary to the well-being of the State of Montana, this Nation, and indeed the world. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Tom Robinson.

STATEMENT OF TOM ROBINSON

Mr. ROBINSON. Thank you. Once again, I'm Tom Robinson. I just want to briefly focus on the Rocky Mountain Front areas today, the areas of conservation you have proposed as additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. As an organization, we are probably more interested in this area than anywhere else in the United States, for two principal reasons. One of them, Bob Marshall was one of our founders and the other reason is that this area is probably the primary wilderness area in the lower 48. We believe that these additions would further protect this great wilderness individually.

I would like to take issue with statements that I have heard today that some of these areas don't merit wilderness protection because they are not of wilderness caliber. I would like to say I have seen a lot of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. I have been all

over Alaska, a State where I previously worked, and have been to the Renshaw area yesterday with these students and Bill Cunningham. I just can't agree with those statements, I think that area is of wilderness quality, which I think would be affected by development in those areas. Also, I was one of the people that ran into this huge elk herd, and I didn't believe how much we spooked these elk. There was just a few of us practically tiptoeing. I would advise the committee that the seismic operations would definitely affect these herds, particularly during calving season. We are not just talking about saving these areas for backpackers, we are basically talking about an unbelievable wildlife place.

We object to any exploration in any of these areas or proposed additions. We do not stand alone here. The American public has overwhelmingly been opposed to these activities in these areas. When we, as a nation, allow our primary ecosystems to become endangered because of only speculated oil, we do ourselves a great injustice. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Roy Burkhart.

STATEMENT OF ROY BURKHART

Mr. BURKHART. Thank you. I would like to make a few short comments. First of all, I'm completely in favor of the Montana Wildlife Association and the Bob Marshall Alliance proposal for wilderness, although, I am in no way affiliated to any of these wilderness groups. I am completely in favor of any wilderness that they would formulate, and would want that considered. I have formulated a plan myself, but I would not want the consideration of a wild zone to infringe on any wilderness proposal or cause any wilderness to fall to a lesser status of protection. I offer this wild zone to protect habitat and not compromise wilderness.

I live in the Swan Valley. I don't know how many years it's been, I think maybe in the fifties, they tried to include that in the wilderness. I have been told by the Forest Service personnel that they tried to turn it into the wilderness of the Missions and the Bob Marshall. Well, they didn't get it in there. And anybody who has seen what has been multiple-use destruction that has occurred in the last 10 to 12 years, it's one of the most destructive concepts I have run across. I understand the Forest Service should be trying to preserve the wild habitat, but it is completely disregarded in multiple-use planning. Everywhere I go I see natural habitat disturbed and altered by economic operations under multiple use. The Rocky Mountain wild zone is a region of natural habitat which runs 150 miles either way, in rough figures. I want it to be protected and preserved as a free native and habitat natural land. I think this would lie in balance to land all over the States.

We have developed land and we have one region left in the State which still shows any resemblance of its wild character, and that is the West Desert and the plateaus and then the plains going east. I would like to see a natural zone formed from the large block of Federal land in the West, this would protect the land, as Forest Service management under the multiple-use has failed to do, providing the natural plains and mountains of the west with the pro-

tection they deserve. The Central Rockies is a wild zone, the Bob Marshall is a wild zone, and that's something. Removing roads and et cetera. But I want limited access to the wild zone concept, and retaining privileges of deeded lands used in the concept that I love.

Senator MELCHER. Excuse me——

Mr. BURKHART. I would like to go on a second longer if I could. I submitted testimony to the Forest Service asking them to consider this far-reaching idea as a public consideration in the Forest Service planning. I submitted it to supervisors. I would like it considered as a total idea if possible in the RARE studies, and especially considered as a whole idea before the Congress if possible. Now——

Senator MELCHER. Mr. Burkhart——

Mr. BURKHART. Excuse me, just a second. I have lived in the West for 36 years. Colorado is my home. I know Montana and other States and young wild habitat, and later I studied and learned extensive biological studies and data. I believe action should be taken now while some of these processes are underway to protect our overall Western habitat, something that isn't being done now. I believe the true roadless character of much of the West—In the sixties, extensively came mostly dirt roads in the 1960's and suburban trends of the late 1960's to 1970's and also recent oil and gas development in the last 10 or so years—I would like to question why a nation as large as ours can't find a way to preserve for all future generations a natural habitat and preserve it now and for as long as possible. If you look at this country, the Cascade ranges are very nice, they could be considered under current improved Forest Service multiple use. The rest of the Nation would fit in anywhere. Most of it is today in this idea.

The main categories I'm concerned with is other wilderness. A legal wild zone with some access, a natural forest or regions for multiple use, for deeded land, ranch land, and industrial. The wild zone would be a preserved natural habitat with roadless zones. Deeded land in the west could be retained at or near previous levels. Ranch use, I would allow, I would allow that to be if ranching was on a sound ecological form use. I would place an area outside of the wild zone as a farm use designation. Development and subdividing would be limited to urban industrial development. Gas and oil would be curtailed or limited.

Senator MELCHER. I believe we have had the advantage of your testimony before. We will allow you to submit the rest of it in written form.

Mr. BURKHART. OK.

Senator MELCHER. This completes this panel.

STATEMENT OF TED LUCAS, HIGHWOOD, MONT.

Mr. LUCAS. Gentlemen, my name is Ted Lucas; I am a rancher from Highwood. I am a member of the following: The Montana Stockgrowers, the National Cattlemen's Association, the Western Environmental Trade Association, the Advisory Council of the BLM, Lewistown District, the Society for Range Management, the Wildlife Management Institute, Ducks Unlimited, and an associate member of the board of supervisors of the Chouteau Conservation District.

Myself and neighbors have been involved in the wilderness study issue since the early 1970's. We have been assured throughout this period that a resolution to the wilderness issue in Montana would be made. This has not happened. Now, 10 years later, we are doing the same thing. Congress must take action so that we can get on with a progressive management program on our Federal lands to insure the use of these areas by adjacent landowners with their livelihood at stake. With the cloud of doubt over multiple use of these lands, most family farmers and ranchers cannot afford to invest and/or borrow capital to improve and increase their operations in order to compete on the State and national levels.

With the past state of the economy, which is improving, and the possibility that our natural resources will be set aside for single use, the Montana economy has been stagnant, jobs have been lost, small businesses, including agriculture, have gone bankrupt and very few new natural resource-related businesses have been locating in Montana. As a result, State and local taxes have increased on almost all fronts and fewer taxpayers are carrying the load. This must change.

I urge the subcommittee and particularly the Montana congressional delegation to impress upon their colleagues that the RARE II issue has been addressed adequately by the U.S. Forest Service, and that those areas identified for nonwilderness need to be released immediately for multiple-use management. We can address discrepancies in land management allocations through the forest planning process, which is stagnant due to the challenges to RARE II. The need for professional, prudent management on those areas identified for nonwilderness is more important for Montana at this time than the need for wilderness which is used by nonresidents and a select few.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and concerns.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Don Allen.

STATEMENT OF DON ALLEN

Mr. ALLEN. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Marlenee and Congressman Williams. You have my written statement. Some of the general comments will be covered or have been covered today. I want to limit my remarks today to the areas of concern of specific areas where specific comments on these areas were. The Bighorn area, which is No. 1610, we do support some acres of wilderness there adjacent to the wilderness there, but we are opposed to the full 10,000 acres. We feel the biggest reasons for needing to object to the total suggested amount is because of the well that was drilled in area 1612, the well which was a dry hole. The significant potential, at least anticipated, and the calculation—I had them run on that particular hill, and had they hit what they intended to hit, that particular location would have been enough energy to supply all the homes in Helena and the entire Lewis and Clark Forest in fact for 43 years. Another area, the 1606, the Nevada Mountain, we do support for it. The Electric Peak area, the new gas pipeline passing through that area, we are not really sure

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what impract might occur in the future because of the buffer zone restriction.

As far as the Bob Marshall addition, the Choteau Mountain areas, the Forest Service recommended nonwilderness, and we agree with that. As far as the Teton area, High Peak Meadow, we agree with the Forest Service recommendation. The Choteau Mountain areas, as far as their recommendations of future planning, again as we stated before, we need to stop planning and make some decisions one way or the other. The Deep Creek area had an extremely high rating as far as gas potential, we would support that of course for nonwilderness until again the true potential area is known. The Silver King-Falls Creek area we would recommend for nonwilderness. The Big Snowys, we would agree with the Forest Service for future planning.

And, Senator Melcher and members of the panel, I think that just one thing we have talked about all these times, and others we have talked about to various points of economics and so forth, but I want to touch on the spacing of the wells, the depth that these wells should be: it should be 640 acres for one well. So, as a number of wells in a particular area wouldn't have a tremendous impact visually or as far as the ground disturbances, there would be a small number of acres, 3 acres perhaps with each well location. Of course, the biggest impact everyone is concerned about would be the roads. But again, many of the areas being recommended for wilderness now have improvements of man there.

Our contention is the Wilderness Act at the end of this year precluding any further oil and gas exploration, when there is a chance for that potential use, we should designate it for potential use. At some further time it's certainly possible technologically and in every other way to reclaim it further, and this applies for all these areas that are being considered today. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Jay Mitchell.

STATEMENT OF JAY MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN, ROCKY MOUNTAIN OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you. My name is Jay Mitchell, and I'm here today as the chairman of the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association. My position regarding this has basically three components. Balanced wilderness legislation can only be achieved with a permanent release of lands determined to be unsuited for wilderness and must be statutorily implemented. We believe that the mineral potential should be explored prior to making this decision. Production of our oil and gas resources does not require large amounts of land. As an example, if all of the land used for energy and mineral production in the history of America were added up, this acreage would constitute less than one half of 1 percent of our total land base. The amount of lands used for oil and gas development would be a fraction of their total. Lands, however, are needed to be explored in order to protect this production. In locking it away before they are explored, there is a possiblility that these resources will forever be lost.

The overthrust belt in Montana, for another example, there is a need for further evaluation. The USGS assessed the undiscovered oil and gas resources in two areas. One, a portion of the overthrust belt and another area. These lands represent 1½ percent of the oil and gas potential lands are sedimentary areas in the United States. The USGS states that this small area may contain 18 percent of the oil and 16 percent of the gas yet to be discovered. Lands placed into wilderness remain so in perpetuity. Lands not designated to wilderness need to be released permanently. We urge the delegation to incorporate hard permanent release and legal sufficiency language into the Montana wilderness language. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

William Vaughey.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM VAUGHEY, PRESIDENT, MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr. VAUGHEY. Senator Melcher and other members of the Montana delegation, my name is Bill Vaughey. I am an independent gas and oil producer from Havre, and I presently serve as president of the Montana Petroleum Association. In that latter capacity, I was an active participant in Montana's 1983 legislative session. During that session, my industry for the first time considered all of Montana as being oil and gas prospective, whereas historically we only thought of the eastern two-thirds as having that designation. New prominence of the overthrust belt has shed a different light on the western third of our State.

No one who has in the last 2 years traveled between east and west Montana, could fail to note the dire need of western Montana for new job sources. We in the petroleum industry consider that western Montana has such a potential source of new long-term high-paying jobs and its oil and gas potential. I appear before you specifically to request of you an early conclusion to the longstanding deliberations so that wilderness areas can be established, nonwilderness areas can be established, and those nonwilderness areas multiple use, and yes, oil and gas exploration. I would ask of you in your deliberations to consider our sincere conviction for western Montana, one of the very best potential sources for new long-term high-paying jobs. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. This concludes this panel.

Bruce Von Alten, you're first.

STATEMENT OF BRUCE VON ALTEN

Mr. VON ALTEN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I support alternative W, particularly the Big Log addition to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and Mount Baldy and Camas Creek additions, which are in my neighborhood. I favor soft release for the remaining designated wilderness areas.

The amount of wilderness amount is tiny in comparison with how many places there are in this country where a person can go out and not have to listen to the sounds of some kind of motor nearby. I don't feel that we have the right to sacrifice our own and future generations' well-being for short-term economic gain, which after all, tends to benefit the rich and the large corporations while

the average person suffers through it. A strong economy can only be created by conservation of resources and looking at the long-term picture as well as the short-term. Renewable technology, solar wind, super insulation will provide jobs that will last. Thank you.

In addition, I would like to include a letter from John McEwen, who could not be here today.

Senator MELCHER. Yes, it will be included, Bruce. We'll make it part of the record right after your statement.

[The letter follows:]

EAST HELENA, MONT., *July 9, 1983.*

Senator JOHN MELCHER,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER: I wish to support the "Alternative W" proposal for the Montana RARE II legislation that is currently being developed in Congress. I believe that is in the best interest of wilderness preservation, for the people of Montana and all U.S. citizens that we add to existing wilderness areas and create new ones. I also want to urge you to insure that a "soft" approach be taken in releasing remaining roadless areas from wilderness consideration. The soft approach has been accepted as a compromise formula by Congress in other state wilderness bills. In addition the soft approach insures that these remaining areas receive as much consideration as possible in the forest planning process.

I especially favor alternative W because it adds to the gates of the Mountains Wilderness which is near my home. Also adding Mt. Baldy to the wilderness area will be an added benefit to the Helena area.

Please include this letter in the hearings record of the subcommittee hearing in Great Falls on July 9, 1983.

Thank you,

JOHN H. MCEWEN.

Senator MELCHER. William Rideout.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM RIDEOUT

Mr. RIDEOUT. Good afternoon, delegation, I would like to honor this young lady that's been taking all these notes.

I'm a student, and I'm going through an incredibly unique opportunity for education in these wildlands and wilderness areas of Montana. I live in the Los Angeles Basin, where on a good day you can see the house next door. The areas in California that aren't eroded are few and extremely far between. On a national level, these lands are magnificent compared to the eroded area and the nonwild areas.

All day long I have been listening to the testimony of both sides, and both sides often talk about this little guy right here. (Indicating a dollar bill.) This guy can be chased up and down a nation all over the place, he can be earned in thousands of different ways. I personally brought mine here to spend in Montana, because it has the wild lands available. When you go into these areas and destroy these wilderness areas, it disturbs me. You can't recreate them. Once the roads are laid down, it will take longer than my lifetime, longer than my children's lifetime before it will ever even disappear. These wildlands are unique, there is so few of them left in the Nation that are unroaded. I know this delegation seeks specific cite information, and I urge you all to take a look at the briefing book provided by the Montana Wilderness Association. It gives specific cite reports on many of these sites.

Upon the subject of hard release, that to me would be like a permanent renting of an apartment I own. I would never go back and

see how they are doing or whether the apartment has been destroyed. It doesn't make that much logical sense. The forest plans take 10 to 15 years, and that's how long they are good. That provides a very ample amount of time to go in and explore, find out if something is useful in the area and make those facts known. If an area is left alone after a forest plan, why not consider it again for another look and see if it's worthy of wilderness recognition. I would also like to voice my approval of alternative W and the soft release program.

The oil companies that put down the little oil well and take up 3 acres, well, that kind of intrusion is relatively small. But nonetheless, it's there, and the noise it creates disturbs all the wildlife around for many more miles than is considered in that 3 acres. If you crop down a 200-year-old tree, how do you reclaim it? Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to present my views.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Jim, you're going to give John Craighead's testimony?

STATEMENT OF DR. JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD, DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE, WILDLANDS INSTITUTE AS PRESENTED BY JIM CURTIS

Mr. CURTIS. Yes. Mr. Chairman, members of the Montana delegation, thank you very much for the opportunity to read the statement from Dr. John Craighead, who cannot be here today because he is currently in Alaska. The following is his statement:

I am director of the Wildlife-Wildlands Institute, a private, nonprofit wildlife research organization affiliated with the University of Montana, Missoula. I am a former leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and professor of zoology and forestry at the University of Montana. Out of a lifelong interest and concern for wilderness, I am submitting this statement urging a statewide Montana RARE II bill that will finally designate wilderness and nonwilderness forest lands throughout Montana.

I have an extensive long-term knowledge of the wild lands of Montana from the perspective of ecologist, botanist and outdoorsman. My professional work has kept me in the wilderness for many months at a time and thus, I am very familiar with certain areas that will be under consideration at these hearings. I am especially familiar with the ecology of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wildernesses and the adjoining forest lands. My professional work in the area over a span of 30 years includes studies of the flora and fauna, habitat-mapping and biological research of the grizzly bear and elk.

I strongly recommend all of the contemplated additions to the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness complex, and fully endorse the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness that have been proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance. It is extremely important that we add the necessary terrain features to provide Montana with a complete wilderness ecosystem. An ecosystem, as defined here, is a geographic land area of similar vegetation types that provide the native wildlife with all of their biological requirements. The ecological transition zone represented by the east front plays a critical role in the habitat needs of several wilderness species, most especially, the grizzly bear.

The Choteau Mountain area, Teton River High Peaks, Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain area, and Falls Creek represent some of the finest grizzly bear habitat anywhere in the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wildernesses. These areas complete the wilderness ecosystem eastward. In my estimation, these are the most vital areas for wilderness annexation within the State. They are scenically superb and support, in addition to the grizzly bear, healthy vigorous populations of wolverine, Rocky Mountain goats, bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer. I have studied and mapped in detail all of these proposed annexations using multispectral imagery from the Landsat satellite. My work is embodied in a monograph entitled "A Definitive System for Analysis of Grizzly Bear Habitat and Other Wilderness Resources." Briefly, the monograph describes how the Landsat satellites were used to evaluate and map grizzly bear habitat in the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness complex. The Landsat satellites are products of the space age that have provided an understanding of the structure and surface character of our own planet previously unimaginable. The satellites record the entire Earth's surface every 9 days as a function of the visible and infrared light reflected from the surface to the satellite's spectral scanning system. The spectral information is stored by the satellite as digital data and transmitted to earthside receiving stations where it is recorded on magnetic tapes. The magnetic tapes are then translated by special computer systems into images of the landforms, water bodies, vegetation cover, man-made structures and other formations characteristic of the Earth's surface. Because similar vegetation and land formations reflect light of similar frequencies, the computer can be used to read the brightness levels and construct false color vegetation maps. When ground tested, such vegetation maps of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness areas were found to be extremely accurate. They can be used to evaluate and rate extensive geographic areas of wilderness habitat for grizzly bears, elk, bighorn sheep, and a wide range of other wilderness wildlife species. Data and maps generated by the system can be used in wilderness evaluation and land-use planning.

Quantitative evaluations of the east front proposed additions to the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness complex, show that these areas are excellent grizzly bear habitat and that future roading or energy or forest product exploitation would severely degrade them for grizzly bears and other wildlife. For example, specific areas within the existing Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wildernesses were rated as grizzly bear habitat on the basis of the abundance and distribution of high preference food plants available to the bears. This can be determined on an acre-by-acre examination of the satellite imagery performed by an interactive computer. The quantitative data generated by the computer is then compiled and rated. On a scale of 1 to 10, the Scapegoat and Slategoat Mountain areas within the Bob Marshall Wilderness rate 10 and 9, respectively. The Deep Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, and Falls Creek areas fall in a range of 7 through 10, indicating habitat for grizzlies that is equal to the best grizzly bear habitat within the existing wildernesses, and superior to much of it.

The grizzly bear must have a home range encompassing three climatic zones, the alpine, subalpine, and temperate. This altitudinal range is vital in supplying the great bear with its year-round food requirements. The east front additions provide the grizzly bear with alpine roots and tubers, subalpine forbs, sedges and grasses and a variety of berries common to the low-altitude temperate zone. In addition, the proposed annexations are unique in that they provide two species of pine nuts, the most important of all grizzly bear plant foods. Nuts of the whitebark pine are found in the subalpine zone between 7,000 and 7,600 feet and nuts of the limber pine are found in the temperate zone at elevations between 7,000 and 4,000 feet. Normally, only one of these species is abundant in grizzly bear habitat. Since these trees bear bumper nut crops every third to fifth year, they are not highly reliable food sources. However, grizzlies living along the east front have two sources of high energy pine nuts to subsist on instead of one. This situation is, as I have stated, unique to the east front and is largely responsible for making the area the finest bear habitat in this wilderness complex.

The proposed annexations to the south and west of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wildernesses, although not as critical as the east front, are nevertheless prime grizzly bear habitat and are essential to completion of a western Montana mountain ecosystem. Monture Creek is a natural extension of the Scapegoat Wilderness possessing all of the natural attributes of that area. Similarly, the Swan Front exhibits all of the unsurpassed natural features of the Bob Marshall. It is characterized by numerous high peaks, hanging valleys, mountain lakes, and untouched drainages of crystal clear water. In many respects, this highly scenic area surpasses in natural beauty many portions of the adjoining Bob Marshall.

In relation to my testimony here, I would like to add a justification for annexing additional land to the already expansive Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Great Bear Wilderness complex. It is extremely important that our largest wilderness complexes represent complete or near-complete ecosystems. This provides them with an ecological stability that partial-ecosystem wilderness areas do not possess. In the early days of the wilderness movement, I worked closely with Dr. Olaus Murie and Howard Zahnheiser, and I know from firsthand experience, that in setting wilderness boundaries, little or no consideration was given to the ecosystem concept simply because the concept was not well understood. Emphasis was placed on setting wilderness boundaries to include unusually scenic terrain of little commercial value. The Bob Marshall boundaries has been established earlier without knowledge of the ecosystem requirements of the big game species, especially elk, bighorn sheep, and the grizzly bear. Today we know from extensive research of the game species and their habitats that the east front is an essential part of the western Montana mountain ecosystem and is vital to the long-term welfare of the species mentioned. In acquiring new wilderness, we should direct special attention to designating land that will complete large ecosystems, areas that provide all of the biological requirements of the resident species. In this respect, the addition of all of the proposed annexations to the western Montana mountain ecosystem would go a long way toward providing our

State and the Nation with an intact ecosystem whose flora and fauna could survive in perpetuity with minimum interference required of management agencies. Montana would have a unique biological area that will be treasured by present and future generations. Thank you for considering my comments. Signed June 30, 1983, John J. Craighead.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Jim, for presenting Dr. Craighead's testimony. This concludes our witness list and this concludes our Montana hearing on this subject. I will remind all of you again that you can sign up for the printed hearing record of the three hearings that have been held this week simply by signing up outside the door. Later on you'll receive a printed record if you so desire.

[Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

U. S. Senate Committee

Energy and Natural Resources

Washington D.C.

Att. Tony Bevinetto

As a concerned citizen of Montana, I am opposed to more Primitive or Wildnerness areas in Montana, especially the Flint Creek Range west of Deer Lodge.

With the road closures and private land closures in this county, further limitations on motorized recreation will create an overrun on adjacent areas, thus causing more closures due to overuse.

The proposed areas in the Flint Creek Range, no's. 1-428 and 1-429 on the RARE II evaluation map, are heavily roaded and have a past history of mining. This in itself willnot fulfill the requirements that are needed for wildnerness or primitive designation.

If the proposed areas are added to the existing wildlife refuges, primitive, and wilderness areas in our state, the total landmass that will be offlimits to mining, logging, and motorized recreation, will equal that of the whole state of Maine! This is a gross waste of natural resources and a definite restriction to industry. It also places an added burden on the already sad employement record of our state.

Please enter this letter as written testimony in the congressional record on RARE II.

AGAIN I SAY <u>NO MORE WILDERNESS!</u>

Conn J. Coughlin

Signed Conn Coughlin

Name

1009 WASHINGTON

Address

Deer Lodge, Mt.

Martin W Dippold

Signed Martin W Dippold
Name
Box 6 R4
Address
Garrison Mont 59731

Signed Frank Drnjevic
Name
Elliston mont Box 214
Address

Signed Everett Burtis
Name
Deer Lodge, Mont.
Address
600 Maryland Ave.

Signed Clifford Gates
Name
315 5th Ave.
Address
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Signed Jim Healy Jowers
Name
Dear Lodge
Address

Signed Jordon Patterson
Name
1016 O'Neil
Address
Deer Lodge MT 59722

Signed Virginia Patterson
Name
1016 O'Neil St
Address
Deer Lodge mt. 59722

Signed
Name
RR2 Box 6 Deer Lodge

Signed Norman W. Williams
Name
Box 53 Gold Creek Montana
Address

Signed Earl Wise
Name
PO Box 611 Deer Lodge Montana
Address

Signed John M. Wohlers
Name
Box 43 Gold Creek, MT
Address 59733

Signed William C. Wohlers
Name
Box 62
Address Gold Creek, Montana
59733

Signed James E. Jackson
Name
28 Glen Dear Lodge
Address Montana

Signed C. E. Johnston
Name
Gold Creek, Mt.
Address

Signed [illegible]
Name
[illegible]
Address Dear Lodge, Mt

Signed R F Labbe
Name
929 Dixon
Address
Dear Lodge Mt

Signed William L. Fox
Name
232 Center St
Address
Dear Lodge Mt 59722

Signed [illegible]
Name
605 Linden St
Anaconda, Mont.
Address

Signed Steven A. MacDuff
Name
Box 412, Dear Lodge
Address

Signed Fred H Phillips
Name
Deer Lodge Mt.
Address

Signed
Gregory T. Williams
Name
Box 61, Gold Creek, Mont, 59733
Address

Signed Bertha Williams
Name
Deadwood Creek Mont.
Address

Signed Rex Winbly
Name
Box 124
Address
Jamison Mont
59731

Signed W W Wood
Name
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Address

Signed D W Bell Jr.
Name
Box 245 Garrison Mont
Address
59731

Signed Loren J Abendschein
Name
Box 424
Anaconda Mont 59711
Address

Signed Scott Wingo
Name
104 4th Dear lodge MT
Address
59722

Signed Karen Anderson
Name
Box 222 Deer Lodge Mt.
Address

Signed J.M. Blodgett
Name
1520 CLARK #7
Address
Box 222 LODGE, MT
59722

Signed Mark Anderson
Name
Box 222, Deer Lodge
Address
Mt.
59722

Signed Robert C Bowers
Name
604 Wisdom Deer Lodge Mt.
Address

Signed [illegible]
Name
325 Kohrs D.L. Mt.
Address

Signed Douglas E Donaldson
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Address

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Name
935 Missouri
Address Dear Lodge Mont.

Signed
Name
215 Milwaukee Ave
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Name
Address

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Name
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Name
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Name
Address Dear Lodge Mt.

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Name
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Name
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Signed
Name
Box 21 Division Mont.
Address

Signed
Hugh A. Moore
Name
616 4th Deer Lodge
Address
Montana

Signed
Mary Moore
Name
Add 855 Deer Lodge MT
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Signed
W. F. Wasemann
Name
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Signed
Jim Webster
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Signed Timothy J. Stone
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Signed
Howard Stevenson
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Signed
Name
Address

Signed
Norman Schultz
Name
Harrison Montana
Address

Signed Mark Schaffer
Name
Box 107 MT
Address
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Signed Dick Hydeen
Name
107 5th
Address
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-20-83

July 16, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands & Reserved Water Subcommittee
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Melcher,

I am writing in support of the Forest Service recommended boundaries for the entire Great Burn Area. In addition, please include the Irish Basin/ Cache Creek area of 14,003 acres which were originally included in the Rare I study.

Senator Melcher, I just returned from a week long trip in the Great Burn area, and I wanted to let you know how remarkably beautiful, pristine, and wild this area is. The wind swept craggy slopes supporting monumental burnt snags and alpine tundra gave striking contrast to the lush vegetation of the valleys that escaped the fire of 1910. Such vistas were magnificent.

The area is home to all kinds of wildlife. During my visit there, I saw a bull moose, a large elk herd grazing, many deer, coyotes frolicking across the snow fields, and a family of goats traversing the rock ledges above our camp. Also, the crystal clear cirque lakes in the area provided us with pan fried trout most every night. I often had the sensation that the land around me was pulsating with life.

The extraordinary wilderness experience that the Great Burn offered enabled me to remove the frame from the picture, and make things real again. I will carry this experience with me for a long time

Senator Melcher, I urge you to do everything in your power to protect the Great Burn and Cache Creek/Irish Basin areas from commercial development, and to formally deagnate them as Great Burn Wilderness.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely yours,
Melissa Blunt
Melissa Blunt

P.S. Please include this letter in the Rare II hearings record.

MONTANA
MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 5630 • 2220 N. COOKE, HELENA, MT 59604 • Phone 406/443-2842

July 8, 1983

STATEMENT OF RICK GRAETZ, PUBLISHER OF MONTANA MAGAZINE

Overall, I am supportive of Alternative "W" as proposed by many Montana citizen groups. This is a balanced approach to designating the many forest regions of Montana into what will ensure multiple use such as wilderness provides, while at the same time allowing other areas to be set aside for single use management such as timbering and mining. Our state's economy requires more wilderness to support a fast-growing tourist and recreation industry. Alternate "W" lends itself to this.

Specifically, in regard to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, I support the 45,000-acre Deep Creek addition which seems to be supported by most people and almost enjoys a consensus. I have contacted many people who reside along the Rocky Mountain Front, and most of them would like to see Deep Creek protected for both economic and recreation reasons. As well, I support the 67,000-acre proposed Monture addition, the 55,000-acre Renshaw addition, the 35,000-acre Teton Middle Fork addition, the 82,000-acre Silver King Falls Creek addition, and the 110,000-acre Swan Face addition. These additions will round out the Bob Marshall in such a way as to protect the entire ecosystem and greatly enhance its economic value, specifically again, for attracting tourists and recreationists as well as fueling the outfitting and guiding businesses.

Box 7149
Yale Station
New Haven CT 06520

Senator John Melcher
200 E. Broadway
Federal Building
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Senator Melcher:

As a Missoula resident and Montana taxpayer, I am writing you to register my support for the preservation of the wilderness status for the Great Burn Area.

Having recently spent two college semesters in the eastern part of the United States, I am more conscious than ever of the uniqueness of our Montana landscape. There is no resource more worth saving than the Great Burn Wilderness Area.

Please include my support for the Irish Basin-Cache Creek exclusion, as originally recommended in the RARE I report.

It means a great deal to me to know that, when my four years of college are over and I return to Montana to make my life here - that these areas will not have been tampered with in my absence.

Thank you,

Rob Werling

please include this letter in the RARE II hearings record.

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-19-83

27-608 O - 84 - 55

July 17, 1983

Senator John Melcher
200 E. Broadway
Federal Building
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing to request that you give your support to the Forest Service RARE II recommendation of wilderness status of the area known as the Great Burn (Hoodoo Unit). This is the area of approximately 177,900 acres along the Montana-Idaho border, north of Lolo Pass. It includes 77,700 acres (approx.) in the Lolo National Forest on the Montana side.

I feel it is very important that you also give your support to including the Irish Basin-Cache Creek exclusion, 14,003 acres that were originally in the Forst Service RARE I wilderness recommendation. It does not have "proven" mineral potential and has highly questionable timber value.

Over the past ten years I have often back-packed and camped in and near this area of the Great Burn. I know from my personal experiences in this area that it is a vital part of the Great Burn Wilderness Area.

Please give your full support to the complete Great Burn Wilderness Area. Thank you very much.

I respectfully request that this letter be included in the RARE II hearings record.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Sells

Eric D. Sells
639 Brooks Street
Missoula, MT 59801

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-19-83

July 12, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please enter the following testimony into the Wilderness Hearing record.

After years of extensive research of all potential Wilderness areas in Montana, it is time now to make the decision. The high quality environment which lures so many to Montana, either as recreationalists or permanent residents, is directly related to the natural environment including forests. Aside from the beauty, which is of great value to the state, wilderness plays an important part in maintaining high water and air quality. Whenever logging, mining and other development occurs, the delicate water balance is altered - always for the worse. Clear-cutting practices contribute to erosion and decrease evapotranspiration, thus effecting the hydrologic cycle. Water, our most vital resource must be protected, conserved and respected. The water shed of our high mountains is an important part of this protection.

We are an extremely wasteful nation and this trend must be changed. There are NOT unlimited resources and the mining of these resources nearly always degrades the environment. Therefor to reduce the needs of our nation (conserve), employ better methods (forest management, farming & mining techniques) must be a high priority of our nation.

I urge your support for additional wilderness protection - the rugged alpine areas, rich in beauty, wildlife and delicate vegatation can best serve our country by remaining free from man's machines. There is sufficient documentation in RARE 11 for a proper evaluation, leaving roaded, lower elevation, less rugged areas for development.

Sincerely,

Willa Hall

Willa Hall
1502 Peosta
Helena, Montana 59601

cc: Senator Baucus
Rep. Williams

702 S. 6th
Bozeman, MT, 59715

July 6, 1983

U. S. Senate Energy Committee
Subcommittee on Public Lands

Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I will not be able to attend the Wilderness hearings this week around the state, so I have chosen to present my testimony as a letter to the committee. Please enter this into the hearing record. If copies of the hearing record are made available to the public, I would like to recieve one at the address above.

I would like to testify in defense of the remaining wilderness lands in Montana. Our state is lucky to contain a great wealth of wild lands--both congressionally preserved Wildernesses and de facto wilderness areas--that remain wilderness in every sense except the legal sense. Undisturbed wild areas are one of Montana's most important natural resources, and will become more valuable in time as wilderness use by all Americans grows.

While the political battle over Wilderness designations has been long, I and other conservationists are not willing to sacrifice pristine natural areas to development in the interest of expediency; if an omnibus bill to settle the wilderness questions remaining in Montana is drafted, all wild lands remaining in the state should be carefully considered for Wilderness designation.

In particular I would like to speak in favor of the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall complex--especially the Deep Creek area. I also urge careful consideration of proposed additions to the Absorka-Beartooth Wilderness, which I plan to visit for the sixth time later this month.

I would personally prefer Wilderness designation for all remaining roadless areas, but I realize this is not politically or economically feasible and that there are legitimate competing interests; but I suggest that all roadless areas be considered to be Wilderness unless it can be conclusively demonstated that the benefits of resourse development exceed the social economic, and scientific costs of development--and the effects on endangered and threatened species, such as the Grizzly Bear, be considered. This proposal is not really radical--I only suggest that a natural treasure only be sacrificed if it can be shown to be in the nation's best interest.

Thank you very much for reading this letter and considering my views and my proposal. I hope that if an omnibus bill is drafted, it will be the product of long and careful labor. If an error is made, It should be made on the side of Wilderness, since a decision to develop wild lands is ess entially irreversible, while a decision to preserve conserves all resources in an area. Thank you again for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Landwehr

Gentlemen;

We run a guide and outfitting business in the East and West Pioneers. We have lived worked and played in the area since 1972. We experience daily the beauty and opportunities for recreation and solitude that the area provides. Unfortunately we also see results and effect that logging done in the last ten years has had on the border areas that once were unspoiled.

I am especially concerned about the West Pioneers, Where as the East Pioneers and other Wilderness areas possess a large degree of protection by the nature of the land being high rocky peaks, the west pioneers are dominated by timber covered rolling mountains with lush interconnected meadows throughout. This provides ideal habitat for the large variety of wildlife especially elk, deer and moose that reside there in large numbers. There are many lakes and streams that offer excellent trout fishing as well as supplying the water for the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.

This type of land also is attractive to the timber industry. There are a lot of trees and the less rugged terrain makes road building and cutting easier and less expensive. It is extremely rare to find this type of land that has not been already roaded and timbered.

In the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact report the West Pioneers were given a 26 out of a possible 28

rating. That is extremely high even among areas that have already received wilderness classification.

In the same report the timber productivity was rated at low to very low. Timber sales in this type of timber are just not economically viable. To make up for the low quality of timber they clear cut large areas leaving only small buffers of trees between the clear cuts, minimal cleanup and reforestation is done, leaving no resemblance to what was.

One reason given for the timbering is concern about the pine beetle infestation. According to Theory and Practice of Mountain Pine Beetle Management in Lodgepole Pine Forests December 1978, these infestations have ocurred throughout history and they provide a continuous supply of food, helping to maintain the vigor of the stand, keeping the stand at maximum productivity, when viewed over many generations of lodgepole pine. This area has always had the pine beetle probably always will. There is no reason to beleive it will be any worse than it has been in the past. It is surely no excuse for opening the area up for logging.

The mining potential in the West Pioneers is questionable still as it has been for the last hundred years, there are supposed to be large Molybdenum deposits here as there are in many other parts of the country which are not suitable for Wilderness. The Wilderness Act makes provision for mining should the necessity be shown, it looks to me to be a good way of saving those minerals for a time when our nation might depend on them for its survival, while saving the nature

of the land for future generations to enjoy.

The Wilderness qualities and character of the area are here now and are being enjoyed by locals as well as many tourists that come to experience the finest fishing and hunting available. How many of these people will come to see clear cuts and Molybdenum mines?

It is crucial that these areas remain in a protected state. A roadless area could eventually be developed but a developed area can never return to a roadless state.

We again extend the invitation to let us show you the area first hand before making your decision. It would be most enlightening to see both the areas that have been logged as well as the roadless areas.

Thankyou,

Robert McNeill

Robert McNeill

P.O. BOX [redacted] 127
Big Timber, Montana 59011

Sen. John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.

July 7,1983

Dear Senator Melcher;

I want to testify, as part of your hearing, as being in favor of creating wilderness in the remaining RARE II areas. Specificly, I support having wilderness in the areas of the Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests which are part of the greater Yellowstone Park ecosystem.

The problems with grizzly bears in the West Yellowstone area are a sure sign that we need as much wilderness as possible on the west side of Yellowstone Park. Without wilderness to live in, the grizzly bear faces possible extinction. Preserve the wilderness for the benifit of the animals and the people.

Thank You
Peter Bennett
Peter Bennett
President,
Cross Creek Protective Asso.

1305 - 2nd Ave, North
Great Falls, Montana
July 10, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Melcher:

Concerning the fate of the million roadless acres left in Montana, I wish to go on record as supporting the Montana conservationists' "Alternative W", which would protect 2 million acres, while releasing 3 million acres for development. And I believe in the concept of "soft release" for the millions of acres not designated as wilderness, as this land should be periodically considered for wilderness in forest planning.

The reason many people live in Montana, and many more visit here, is to enjoy her natural wonders---magnificent scenery, varied wildlife, sparkling streams, and wild mountain areas. I think we have to protect our way of life by protecting our resources from subdivisions, roading, oil and gas development, excessive timber harvest, et cetera.

I am especially concerned about preserving additions to the Bob Marshall, particularly along the Rocky Mountain Front. I have hiked and back packed in this area for many years---Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek-Silver King, Teton River High Peaks, Choteau Mountain---spending wonderful hours watching elk, mountain sheep, mountain goats and grizzlies, admiring the wildflowers and birds, and gazing on the magnificent vistas. The sight (and sound) of drilling rigs and helicopters in this area makes me wonder what has happened to our sense of values---that we would sacrifice such a place for a few gas wells. I believe this area must have wilderness protection.

Please include this as a part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Carley McCaulay

Carley McCaulay

Copies to:
Senator Max Baucus, Rep. Pat Williams, Rep. Ron Marlenee, Gov. Ted Schwinden

I appreciate being able to speak to this assembly today. I only wish that I could address the issue a bit more informed. Until now, I've only had a mild interest in the RARE 11 issue. I recently obtained a report from the Western Environmental Trade Association. This was my first look at facts and figures concerning the issue. The report seems to offer two extremes on a scale. There appears to be an urgent need to designate areas and define boundries so that planning remaining useable forest is not held up any further.

Though I've not spent a great deal of time in wilderness areas, I have hunted both roaded and roadless areas. The logging that has gone on has improved the game population. But when areas are gated, people tend to ignore the gates and destroy them and pass on roads that were to be shut off for game and road management purposes. If a roadless area could be managed and logged, game could flourish without competition from vehicles

I don't feel that I am any more unique than anyone else testifying here today, but I do feel in as much of a dilema as anyone. I very much enjoy going to areas without roads and not having to compete with vehicular traffic. On the other hand, I rely on logging for my livelihood. Roadless areas are fine, but the timber should be harvested and managed for maximum utilization. Wilderness areas should be left alone, untouched by mineral, petroleum and timber industries.

In conclusion, a final plan must be decided on so that general use forest, roadless forest and wilderness areas have hard and fast rules and regulations and boundries. The areas should be of reasonable size. A happy medium in size is important. Utilization should be made where reasonable. Industry doesn't need to get fat, but a steady job is of great value. An obstructed view of the forest is possible with too few trees as well as too many.

Thank you

Roque Couvillion
W. W. 5278 Ross Lane
Florence, Montana 58933

I WAS TOLD I WOULD TESTIFY AT THE [illegible] HEARING BUT DIDN'T GET REGISTERED IN TIME

July 10, 1983

Rod Ash
Box 957
Condon, Mt. 59826

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
PO Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59807

Senator Melcher:

I wish to submit testimony in regards to the Montana Wilderness Act. My family and I have had a place near Condon in the foothills of the Swan Front since 1969. We support "Alternative W" for Montana wilderness additions. There are so few wilderness areas left out of all of Montana that surely we can preserve this small part of Montana and national heritage.

In the long run the economic value of the wilderness represents more than the relatively little timber and mineral resources on these lands.

I would like to speak specifically for the inclusion of the Swan Front into the Bob Marshall complex. For many years I have walked into various sections of the Swan Front . It is beautiful but fragile country. Much of it is so steep that logging or even vehicle use would have a major impact on erosion of the area. As a matter of fact some of the areas that have been logged show much erosion because of the steepness of the slopes. The Front makes a logical western entrance to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

I agree that decions are due on the designation of wilderness. However, the administration's proposal that any remaining roadless areas can never again be considered for wilderness seems unfairly restrictive.

The wisest use and best, of Montana's remaining wild lands for the present and future generations would be as wilderness so that critical wildlife habitat, watershed and a remnant of our heritage can be given lasting protection.

Rod Ash

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-11-83

STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE U.S. SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AT THE JULY 5th, 1983 WILDERNESS HEARING IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

We support the "Alternative W" areas for Wilderness status. They are listed on the attached sheet.

We have walked in a number of the listed areas and are not simply backing a list with no first hand experience. The areas we have walked in are:
Lolo Forest - Welcome Creek, the Missions, the Selway-Bitterroot and Sheep Mt.
Gallatin Forest - the Crazy Mts.
Beaverhead Forest - Cross country skiing in the West Pioneers
Bitterroot Forest - Selway-Bitterroot
Helena Forest - visited Gates of the Mountains, climbed Mt. Baldy
Lewis and Clark Forest - Rocky Mountain Front area

Visits to these areas have all been made since April of 1975. We are senior citizens.

We urge the Committee to see that the lands listed as "Alternative W" be given wilderness status.

Alice Howe Austin
Alice Howe Austin

Briggs M. Austin
Briggs M. Austin

4741 Sundown Rd., Missoula, Mt. 59901

Copies to: Senator Max Baucus
Senator John Melcher
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

MISSOULA OFFICE
RECEIVED
7-12-

"Alternative W" Areas listed by National Forest

Lolo National Forest
* Welcome Creek Wilderness Addition, 1,100 acres.
* Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition, 9,400 acres.
* Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Addition, 13,060 acres.
* Great Burn, 91,700 acres.
* Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox, 24,591 acres.
* Sheep Mountain, 32,000 acres.
* Quigg Peak, 64,000 acres.

Flathead National Forest
* Mt. Hefty, 13,700 acres.
* Tuchuck, 20,880 acres.
* Thompson Seton, 28,700 acres.
* Northern Swan Crest, 50,000 acres.

Gallatin National Forest
* Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Additions, 60,000 acres in 3 areas.
* North Absaroka Wilderness Additions, 3,000 acres in 2 areas.
* Lionhead Mountain, 22,400 acres.
* Crazy Mountains, 90,000 acres.

Deerlodge National Forest
* Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Additions, 18,000 acres in 2 areas.
* Flint Creek Range, 61,320 acres.
* Tobacco Root Mountains, 60,000 acres. Also on Beaverhead National Forest.

Beaverhead National Forest
* Italian Peaks, 20,000 acres.

Big Hole River Watershed Protection Proposal on the Beaverhead National Forest
* North Big Hole Addition to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, 30,000 acres.
* West Big Hole Mountains, 86,000 acres.
* East Pioneer Mountains, 93,859 acres.
* West Pioneer Mountains Wilderness Study Area, 148,150 acres.

Kootenai National Forest
* Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Additions, 20,000 acres in 7 areas.
* Scotchman Peaks, 66,417 acres.
* Trout Creek, 32,640 acres.

Bitterroot National Forest
* Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Addition. 48,200 acres in 13 areas.
* Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Addition, 1,800 acres in 2 areas.
* Stony Mountain, 98,000 acres, also on Deerlodge and Lolo National Forests.

Custer National Forest
* Lion Creek Plateau, 20,680 acres.
* Lost Water Canyon, 9,800 acres.

Helena National Forest
* Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Addition, 10,000 acres.
* Nevada Mountain, 55,000 acres.
* Mt. Baldy, 15,800
* Camas Creek, 38,700 acres.
* Little Blackfoot Meadows, 55,550 acres. Also on Deerlodge National Forest.

Lewis and Clark National Forest
* Tenderfoot - Deep Creek, 94,600 acres.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Protection Proposal on the Lewis and Clark, Helena, Lolo, and Flathead National Forests.
* The Rocky Mountain Front, 182,000 acres in 6 areas.
* Monture Creek, 90,000 acres.
* The Swan Front, 50,000 acres.

723 N. Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601
July 19, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Melcher:

I was unable to attend and testify at the public hearings held by the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Montana's remaining National Forest roadless areas, however, I wish the following comments to be included in the official hearing record.

I strongly support Alternative W. The RARE II process identified six million acres of undeveloped roadless area in Montana. Alternative W would protect about half of those lands with wilderness designation. In this huge state of ours, there is precious little wilderness, and even with the addition of approximately three million acres, we will be extending protection to only the tiniest segment of our most precious jewels.

There are those who continue to wail about "locking up" lands with mineral and timber potential. Worn out, empty falsehoods! Recent investigations have shown that those activities based on a healthy wilderness system: tourism, hunting, fishing, etc. create more jobs and dollars in Montana than mining, lumbering and energy development.

I am also in favor of "soft release" for those lands which do not receive wilderness designation. The precedent for this compromise has been accepted for other states' wilderness bills. Hard release is totally inflexible and limits Congressional and public options when there is absolutely no need to do so.

Finally, "sufficiency" legislation would only be acceptable for Montana if all Alternative W areas receive wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Adela Awner

cc: Sen. Baucus
Rep. Williams
Rep. Marlenee
Gov. Schwinden

Gary N. Braun
1604 Lloyd
Bozeman, Montana 59715
July 6, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Montana 59807

Dear Senator Melcher,

I would like this letter to be included as written testimony in the official record of the July 7 Public Lands Subcommittee meeting in Anaconda, Mt.. Work obligations would not allow me to attend this hearing, but I felt it vitally important to make my own views known to the Subcommittee.

I heartily endorse the "Alternative W" proposal, and would like to make the following points concerning this proposal, and Wilderness in general:

1) Wilderness deserves to exist in its own right. Humans are not the only form of life on this planet--we must consider the health of our entire global ecosystem. Wilderness designation is essential in helping to protect the ecological future of our planet.

2) More specifically, and more closely related to human needs, the pristine lands of Montana are vitally important to both the lifestyle of native Montanans, and the increasingly important tourist industry. Wilderness designation for the areas proposed in Alternative W would ensure the fufillment of these recreational and economic needs.

3) It is important that any release language included in a statewide Rare II bill be of the "soft" variety.

Thanks very much for considering my feelings on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Braun

July 16, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O.Box8568
Missoula, Montana 59807

Senator John Melcher:

Re: U.S. Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Montana Wilderness Recommendations.

As a longtime resident and rancher in Northwest Montana, I would like my comments included in the hearing record.

I am familiar with the Flathead, Kootenai, and Bitterroot National Forests, having hiked, ridden, and packed extensively in them, particularly the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Montana's strength is in her great natural beauty. It is important to leave as much as we can in a natural state. This is where the real and enduring wealth of Montana lies - in untouched wild places.

I recommend Alternative W, which would protect the largest amount of these roadless areas.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Falconer

Loon Lake Ranch
Box 187
Trego, Montana 59934

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-19-83

Craig T. Davis
Rt. 1 Box 206
Stevensville, Mt. 59870
July 16, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Montana 59807

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-18-83

Dear Sir;

I wish to express my full support for Alternative W as outlined by the Montana Wilderness Association. I would like to request that this written testimony be included in the official hearing record.

For fifteen years I have been on numberous backcountry trips in the Lolo, Flathead, Gallatin, Deerlodge, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, Helena, Bitterroot and Custer National Forests. I would like to see that the areas described in "Alternative W" be protected as wilderness so that I and many other people can enjoy this backcountry for many years to come. I have backpacked, packed horses, Hunted, fished and enjoyed the wilderness experience in many areas of the ten national forests being considered for wilderness preservation. I want to be able to visit again many of these areas that I have already seen and also see the rest of the national forest that I have not traveled yet. The areas as described in "Alternative W" must be preserved as wilderness. Wilderness areas provide for a large tourist trade and outfitter industry.

The remaining 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness by " Alternative W" should have a "soft release" designation. This will allow a period of time to further consider the fate of the remaining 3 million acres. There may be some areas which have been over-looked for wilderness designation and can thus be studied for inclusion before these areas are turned over for development.

"Alternative W" maybe the last chance for wilderness designation of 2.2 million acres in ten Montana National Forests. I request that the Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and National Resources Committee accept the proposed "Alternative W" for preservation of wilderness.

Sincerely,

Craig T. Davis
Diane M. Davis
Steve E. Davis

27-608 O - 84 - 56

July 1,1983

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

As a retired M.D. I am well aware of the great need many people find for the challenge, the beauty and the solitude offered them by wilderness. As a frequent user of wilderness myself, I am aware too of the overcrowding found in many wilderness areas at certain times of the year. Such overcrowding can only destroy the natural resource. If the western states are to host wilderness users from all parts of the country, then these states must add more acreage to the areas presently designated as wilderness. This must be done now.

While I am interested in all wilderness areas and the proposed additions to each one of them, I know most intimately those areas proposed as additions to the Bob Marshall, the country which is closest to my home in the Swan Valley. I ask thatall areas proposed as additions to the "Bob" be given wilderness protection.

Montana's ever increasing tourist industry is dependent, at least in part, upon the beauty of wild appearing, unroaded areas. Whet er these tourists are motorized, are bikers, or are hikers, few of them leave the state without leaving money behind them. Stores, restaurants, motels and campgrounds all benefit by the tourist trade.

As I shall be unable to attend scheduled hearings, I ask in writing that Montana's congressional delegation give their support to alternative "W", the alternative supported by both the Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana chapter of the Sierra Club. I also urge the delegation to support the "soft release" of the three million acres of roadless land which has not been designated as wilderness, rather than the "hard release" supported by the Regan Administration.

I request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

Sincerely
Edward L Foss
Condon, Mont 59826

Box 188
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

The Honorable Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
Box 8568
Missoula, MT 59807

(I wish to have these comments included in the official record of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearings on roadless areas.)

Senator Melcher and members of the committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the proposed "Alternative W" which would protect 2.2 million acres of the best areas as wilderness, while releasing nearly 3 million acres to development. "Alternative W" stands for wilderness, wildlife, watershed protection, and preservation of Montana's unique way of life.

Having worked for the Forest Service in Thompson Falls since 1968 I have become very familiar with the Cube Iron-Silcox area, which would encompass some 40,000 acres. This area contains numerous mountain lakes, some of which can be good fishing. A wide range of habitat types can be found, from a dry Ponderosa-Pinegrass hillside to a high Alpine Fir-Beargrass ridgetop. It not only has a wide variety of plant species but also abounds with wildlife, some of which are: Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, Deer, Elk, Moose, Black Bear, Bobcats, Lynx, Mountain Lions, Martens, Coyotes, Marmots, a variety of smaller mammals, and numerous species of birds. This wilderness also contains critical habitat for the grizzly bear, and my belief is some of these bears are still present. From the mountain tops of Silcox, Cube Iron, and Headley there are many spectacular views including those of the Mission, Cabinet, and Swan Ranges. One could write pages about this wilderness

and still not cover all it has to offer. Every wilderness is unique and special in its own way and the Cube Iron-Silcox Wilderness is no different.

I have observed this area change through the years; as much of Montana has. The tourist trade, hiking, fishing, hunting, and outfitting is becoming a very important part of Montana and should not be overlooked. To preserve the Cube Iron-Silcox area and the other 2.2 million acres in the "Alternative W" proposal would be a great asset to Montana's future generations.

The trade off for development is more than 3 million acres of roadless land. The Reagan Administration supports "hard release" of these lands. I would highly recommend and support a "soft release" of these areas. A compromise which has been accepted by Congress in many other states.

Wilderness is the preservation of many things and some are often overlooked. We become so involved in the economics of the system, we forget about the life that is out there. The spirit of each animal and each plant. Do they have a choice of what happens? Do they get to vote?

The 2.2 million acres that could become wilderness is a small sacrifice to the world of economics, compared to what its inhabitants would be left with.

Please support this wilderness proposal and a "soft release" of the areas not designated as wilderness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Gunderson

Dale A. Gunderson

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Representatives
Pat Williams
Ron Marlenee

July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing in support of "Alternative W" which would protect 2.2 million acres of Montana Wilderness and am recommending your support of the "soft release" of the remaining roadless non-wilderness areas. I am personally familiar with lands included in the Kootenai, Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests, and have traveled through the Flathead, Gallatin, Deerlodge, Beaverhead, Big Hole, Custer, Helena, and Lewis and Clark areas.

As a transplanted midwesterner, I am aware of the scarcity of wild lands such as these. We must maintain the integrity of them by not parceling them out for short-term economic gains. These forests are a national treasury and if we don't have the foresight to preserve them, our children and grandchildren won't have the opportunity to correct our mistakes.

We who are privileged to live in Montana must be held to an even higher standard to protect these lands for all Americans. If economy is the main factor in opening them to logging and mining, why not look at their long-term value in terms of tourism--fishing, hunting, outfitting, etc? Carefully managed, these same lands can not only be protected, but shared, and in the process they will produce revenue for the sagging regional economy without despoiling their wilderness aspect.

There is no price we can attach to the privilege of breathing Montana air and drinking from our streams. When I drive my children to the local swimming hole and a herd of elk cows and their calves cross in front of us, or when we chance upon a newborn fawn curled in the ferns in the woods--I wonder how we can bear the responsibility should we allow these wild wonders to become only memories. This wilderness isn't ours to spoil, but only to enjoy and preserve during our time on earth. Let us hope that these mountains and the wildlife that inhabit them will be here in healthy balance long after we have passed from the scene.

Thank you.

P.S. Please include my remarks in the official hearing record.

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-12-83

Very truly yours,

Judy Hanson

Judy Hanson
P.O. Box 45
Heron, MT 59844

Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Williams
Representative Marlenee

July 9, 1983

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

I would like this letter to be a part of the official hearing record on a statewide wilderness bill for Montana.

I have long valued and utilized our existing system of wild lands. I support the additions to that system embodied in Alternative W, and encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to do the same.

Of particular interest to me are the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I support the following additions to the Bob Marshall complex: Swan Front, Monture Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, and Falls Creek-Silver King. These areas have high wilderness value and, I believe, are best placed under the protection of official wilderness designation.

I am particularly interested in the Deep Creek area. The wildlife values of this area are tremendous. The largest herd of bighorn sheep in North America, the Sun River elk herd, grizzlies, deer and mountain goats all regularly move between the Deep Creek area and the existing Bob Mashall Wilderness.

In my opinion, wilderness designation for Deep Creek would not create a conflict with livestock grazing. Any pre-existing grazing is compatible with such a designation. The area has historically been used as wilderness regardless of its legal designation. I encourage the Montana Congressional Delegation to include Deep Creek as an integral part of the Bob Marshall.

Again, I support Alternative W and the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and encourage the delegation to do the same.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Jutta Bru Hampe
PO Box 414
Helena, MT 59624

Law Offices of
Mc Garvey, Lence V Heberling
a partnership of professional corporations
745 South Main
Kalispell, Montana 59901-5399
Telephone (406) 755-5032

Dale L. Mc Garvey, P.C.
John A. Lence, P.C.
Jon L. Heberling, P.C.

of Counsel
Diana B. Walsh

June 22, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59807

Re: Wilderness hearing, July 5, 1983

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please include this written comment in the official hearing in the above matter. I support the Montana Wilderness Association alternative W. I am personally familiar with the Mt. Hefty, Tuchuck, Thompson Seton, and Northern Swan Crest areas. The first three areas have prime wilderness values and are crucial to the survival of the grizzly bear. It is important that these areas be managed as wilderness due to the cumulative impacts of activities surrounding the areas. The Northern Swan Crest will simply include in the Bob Marshall the high altitude areas that people assume are already in the Bob Marshall.

It is interesting to note that the Flathead Basin Study Economic Assessment-Final 1982, p. 12, shows that tourism constitutes a solid 20% of the basic jobs in the Flathead. Even more amazing is the table at p. 5 which shows that 90% of the new basic jobs over the years 1968-1978 were due to tourism/travel. It is the area's unique wilderness values which people come so far to enjoy.

I further request "soft release" of the remaining three million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness by conservationists under alternative W. These areas may then be considered in the next national forest planning cycle. We note that this compromise has already been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, West Virginia and Florida.

Yours sincerely,

Jon L. Heberling

Jon L. Heberling, P.C.

JLH:jd

6-25-83 Ltr

P. O. Box 1052
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Roadless Area Review and Evaluation
Missoula, Montana

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-18-83

Dear Sirs:

Please include my comments in the hearing record.

I am a resident of Thompson Falls, Montana where I am a general contractor specializing in home building and remodeling and light commercial construction. My avocation, on the other hand, is the great outdoors and that is why I live in western Montana. As for the wilderness decisions before us you could say I'm on both sides of the fence--dependant on the timber industry for the materials of my trade, and committed to the protection of wildlands and wildlife for in these I find the quality of my life. I am sympathetic to both sides of the issue, particularly since I am in contact each day with people of various life styles and opinions: woodworkers, millworkers, Forest Service personnel, ranchers, trout fisherman, backpackers, nature lovers and environmentalists. Up here in Thompson Falls many of us are on both sides of the fence, and from an economic standpoint we are all in the same boat.

It was with this background I decided to attend the public hearing on the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation held in Missoula July fifth. I felt I needed to hear all sides of the question in order to make my own decision in good conscience. It was a day well-spent. Despite the often-mentioned frustration, in the public testimony, over the 12 year or so lag between RARE I and this (possibly) final stage of the decision, my impression was that we have learned much about putting our heads together. Though this slow resolution has been aggravating, it has also been obviously fruitful. People have come to respect each others opinions and recognize each others' legitimate claims. I caught a new sense of openness in various testimony by mining and timber industry spokesmen and from wilderness and conservation advocates. It was refreshing to hear, as though we in western Montana have come of age, for this is state-of-the-art democracy at work.

I think this is a critical leap in the right direction. Here in western Montana decisions about wilderness are vital to most everyone because we most all have a stake in the public lands, either for livelihood or for our recreation. And since we are, most importantly, still all neighbors these decisions must foster good will. We do prefer to look our neighbor in the eye. Therefore, though the process has been painstaking I think it has been worthwhile and I would like to see it continued in this style, that is, with a sufficient amount of time set aside to hash out differences so that the final decisions reflect the concerns of all sides.

A case in point that came to light at the hearing is the joint resolution negotiated between the Bob Marshall Alliance and Pyramid Lumber Company concerning the boundaries of the Monture/Clearwater Addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I have hiked, skied and hunted up Monture Creek for the past ten years and have often wondered why it was excluded from the Bob Marshall and always hoped that the valley would be preserved. Now I trust that these two

interests have worked out an agreeable settlement and I will support a 71,000 acre Monture/Clearwater Addition to the Bob Marshall.

Possibly another case where different interests are able to negotiate compromise is in the Scotchman Peaks. I support the proposal suggested by the Libby Rod and Gun Club for a 66,417 acre wilderness. Testimony given by ASARCO seemed to be responsive to this proposal with a possible exception or two for mineralization potential. So apparently the door is still open for working out an agreeable solution here too.

The point is these decisions do take time. And why not give it time? Why the rush, this "now or never" attitude of "hard release"? I don't see any necessary justification to draw each and every boundary or make every exclusion or inclusion to the Wilderness System at this very moment. In other words, for those areas where we find general agreement let's go ahead and draw up the decision. But for those still in contention let's give ourselves time--as per "soft release" language--that is, defer the decision to another time, and, perhaps, another generation. The mountains will stay in place.

Overall, I support "Alternative W" offered by the Montana Wilderness Association. I think it is a careful selection of the best remaining roadless areas for classification as wilderness. Also it is an important consideration what economic values we stand to gain from these high quality wilderness areas situated throughout western Montana. In these days of fluctuating markets for timber and minerals, diversification of our economic base may very well mean survival of our way of life. No doubt tourism could give us some needed punch, and stability, to our often stagnant, or cyclical, economy.

There are certain areas I am particularly interested in seeing preserved, the areas I am personally familiar with. In these places I have hiked, hunted, fished, and skied. I think they are outstanding in their natural benefits and deserve protection. They include:

1. Additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness: 182,000 acres in five areas together known as the Rocky Mountain Front; 71,000 acres, as previously mentioned, of the Monture/Clearwater Addition; 50,000 acres known as the Swan Crest.
2. The Cube Iron-Mt. Silcox area. This could be Thompson Falls' "backdoor wilderness". It should comprise 24,590 acres.
3. Additions to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness; 20,000 acres in seven areas. There seems to be a consensus of opinion from the local population and from the business community that this wilderness should be enlarged. I would like to see the door left open for the proposed ski area near Libby.
4. Scotchman Peaks Wilderness as previously mentioned; 66,417 acres. Heretoo there is a long history of local support, and it seems apparent that the mineral conflicts can be worked out.
5. Great Burn Wilderness; 177,000 acres. The overwhelming testimony in support of the Great Burn given during the public hearing, as well as the high recommendations of the RARE studies, can not be ignored.

Thanks much for considering my possibly overdue comments in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Leo Keane

Michael Lang
Box 1041
Condon, Mt. 5986

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59801

Senator Melcher,

I write to support wilderness alternative "B" as proposed by the Mt. Wilderness Association and ask that this letter be entered in the public record.

One area of the proposed additions that I am familiar with is the Swan Front. As a resident of the Swan Valley and a wilderness user, I feel that the Swan Front is not only a protective barrier to the Bob Marshall but completes the "Valley" as a inclusive area. The Swan Valley is well known for its raw beauty and some of the best hunting in the state. Recreation represents the future for the Swan- The Swan Front represents the future for us here.

I also endorse the soft release option.

Thanks,
Michael Lang
Michael Lang

P.S. Copies sent to Max, Pat, Ron, and Ted

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-19-83

Christopher Kersten
606 Miles Ave.
Billings, Montana 59101

To SENATOR JOHN MELCHER

This letter is in response to the public hearings to be held on Wilderness lands in Montana. I'm unable to attend the hearings, so I'd like this letter to be considered written testimony.

First of all, I support "Alternative W", which I believe to be the only responsible way to treat and manage our natural and cultural heritage. Secondly, I support the "soft release" of the remaining public land over the "hard release" alternative.

Most wilderness lands have value to a wide range of people. Some people do want less wilderness. Those people would probably be people who want to log, mine, or drill for oil. I sincerely question weather they really need to disturb these areas. There are already extremely large areas available for substained logging and to add afew more areas would not significantly improve the logging industry. We should manage the areas we've already developed. Hardrock mining and oil drilling are not what I'd call a wise investment at this time or are they likely to be. In any case, I don't see it a wise desision to open up more areas. And besides, wilderness designation does not close these areas to mining, it just makes the industries more accountable for their drilling and mining techniques. That hardly sounds bad.

Who wants wilderness? First of all, there are those odd people labeled "conservationists". They've been also called nazis, Communists, radicals, and unrealistic for their support of wilderness. I never knew that communists loved mountains, forests,

and their environment so dearly. Conservationists, simply, want to be sure that there are ample lands set aside to let man and animals exsist in and be able to experience a truely natural ecosystem. Call wilderness lands a natural history museum or a zoo if you like. Actually we'd probably get more respect and support then. We want places where animals and plants can live in a natural ecosystem with little impact from man. I don't want to tell my children that once upon a time I saw a strange animal called a griz. I want them to be able to go out and see it , and not to know it from stories or old books. We must preserve our heritage and protect our ecosystem. There can be no dollar sign attached. These lands are a symbol of the United States' pride and wisdom.

Other people who support a strong wilderness system range from hunters,to fisherman, to ranchers, to motel owners, to gas station owners, to waitresses, to outfitters, to shop owners, to the unemployed miners. I know many people who will probably never visit a wilderness area, but if you ask them, you'd probably find out they support wilderness. They love living in Montana partly because those wild lands are there. I do believe a state referendum would show strong support for wilderness. How many Montanans want to live near a clear cut or a strip mine? They want trees, lakes, fish, fresh air, and solitude available to them. Most people don't want to share wilderness with a million other people like in Yellowstone Park. You've got to have large and extensive areas for there to be true "Wilderness". Otherwise all we have is an island zoo or a city park. Please act responsibly with my land.

Sincerely,

Charles Hutton

Box 1386
Trout Creek, MT. 59874

The Honorable Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
Box 8368
Missoula, MT. 59807

(I wish to have the following included in the official record of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearings on roadless areas.)

Senator Melcher and members of the committee:

I recently obtained a list of the Montana national forest areas whose fates are currently being determined by this committee. I am a Montana native and as I scan the list, memories are kindled of countless hiking, fishing, hunting and sight seeing trips enjoyed in many of these areas with friends and family. Also kindled are dreams of similar trips to the areas I have yet to see.

In my more selfish moments, I would advocate a total ban on any further development in any of these areas. However, as the saying in this area goes, "You can't eat the scenery." I know people who work in the timber and mining industries who advocate preservation of Montana's wild areas just as I do. So, a balance must be struck. And a workable, acceptable balance has been proposed, I think, by Montana conservationists: Alternative W.

Alternative W stands for wilderness, wildlife, watershed protection, and preservation of Montana's unique way of life. Under the proposal, 2.2 million of the 6 million acres under consideration would be protected as wilderness. Nearly 3 million acres would be released for development. Such a proposal could hardly be referred to as "obstructionist", considering the amount of land given to development.

I am presently fortunate enough to live near the border of the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests. Within minutes of my house, I have access to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area and the Scotchman Peaks, Trout Creek and Cube Iron Mountain-Mt. Silcox roadless areas. The Cabinet Mountains are one of the last holdouts of Grizzly bear habitat outside the national parks. For that reason alone, it is vital that the area be afforded wilderness protection.This and the other areas I mentioned provide vital "undisturbed" areas necessary for the maintenance of other wildlife species: elk, deer, and mountain lion, to name but three.

The economic value of wilderness protection for these areas cannot be understated either. Recreation, tourism and outfitting are large contributors to the economic base of this area. In fact, while the timber industry is subject to cyclical fluctuations, these industries provide a steady sourceof economic resources. And their impact on the natural

—more—

add one

resources is far less harsh than the resource development industries.

I would also like to urge the Montana Congressional Delegation to work for the "soft release" of the remaining 3 million acres not advocated for wilderness designation. The Reagan Administration advocates the "hard release" of such areas, thus preventing them from ever being considered for wilderness management again. To me, this is typical of the short-sightedness, selfishness and downright greed that runs rampant in this administration.

"Soft release" is a much more responsible system of long-range planning and management, releasing roadless areas not designated by Congress as wilderness for the next 15 years of the present National Forest Planning Cycle. The "soft release" compromise has been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, West Virginia and Florida. As one of the leading "wilderness" states, Montana is morally obligated to do no less.

Let me conclude by reiterating my main points:

Please work for and vote for Alternative W proposed by Montana conservationists. 2.2 million acres of protected wilderness is a small price to pay for 3 million acres opened up to development.

Please bear in mind the importance of these wilderness areas to Montana's economy. Tourism, recreation, hunting, fishing, outfitting—all are industries that contribute heavily to the state's economic base, and are not as subject to cyclical fluctuations as are the natural resource development industries.

Please work for and vote for the "soft release" of the roadless areas not designated as wilderness. Such a responsible long-range management policy is in keeping with Montana's traditional stance of wilderness and natural resource protection and use.

Please remember that we do not inherit the world from our parents—rather, we borrow it from our children. Please help us be proud of the world we return to our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Rapp-Svrcek

Paul S. Rapp-Svrcek

(Copies enclosed for Senator Max Baucus and Congressmen Pat Williams and Ron Marlenee.)

Elaine Sedlack
Box 164
West Glacier, MT 59936

June 27, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, MT 59807

MISSOULA OFFICE
7-6-83

Dear Senator Melcher;

Please include these comments in the official hearing record for the statewide RARE II bill.

I have lived in the area of Glacier National Park for the past 16 years and during that time I have witnessed an incredible increase in the recreational use of the area. Visitation in GNP has increased from approx. 900,000 to 1½ million. Cross country skiing in the area has increased from just a few weekend skiers to hundreds every weekend. And National Forest trails that were barely used 16 years ago get heavy use now by family groups. Many new businesses catering to these recreationists have sprung up in recent years, including 3 sports stores, 4 river rafting companies on the Middlefork alone, numerous motels, restaurants, and other recreational businesses. The demand for outfitting permits far surpasses the capacity of the existing wilderness and no new permits are being issued.

According to the proposed Flathead National Forest Plan the demand for wilderness recreation will outstrip the opportunities available in 20 years and a management plan for "limits of acceptable change" is being formulated.

The people of this country are demanding more wilderness resources and Montana is one of the few remaining places left in the lower 48 states that still has lands suitable to meet these needs. Other areas of the country have no wilderness resources left, but have growing conditions better suited to raising timber. For these reasons I support Alternative W formulated by Montana conservationists to protect wilderness, wildlife, watersheds, and Montanans' unique life style.

Areas I am most concerned with remaining in a roadless state are those in the Bob Marshall Ecosystem - particularly those in the North Fork of the Flathead including the MT. Hefty, Tuchuck, and Thompson-Seton areas and the Northern Swan Crest. I believe the only chance for the survival of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states lies within this ecosystem. Impacts from coal mines, road construction, oil and gas leasing, and subdivision and second home development are creating great pressures on the grizzly and will only result in more bloody bear-human encounters unless we preserve sufficient habitat where human disturbance

is kept to a minimum. Glacier National Park cannot exist as an island. It is recognized worldwide as a unique ecosystem and emphasis must be placed on protecting it.

Grizzlies in the Cabinet Mountains have a slim chance of surviving, and their only chance is to keep in a roadless state the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions and the Scotchman Peaks area.

The Mission Mountains Wilderness additions are needed to keep those grizzlies from being isolated from the Bob Marshall Ecosystem.

Alternative W calls for 2.2 million acres of wilderness. Nearly 3 million acres would be released for development. These lands should be released from consideration as wilderness for the next 15 years of the present National Forest Planning cycle, which would allow the younger generation an opportunity in the future to decide how it wants some of these lands managed. This "soft release" compromise has been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in 6 other states to date.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this issue which is so important to future generations of Montanans.

Sincerely,

Elaine Sedlack

Elaine Sedlack

79 Konley Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
July 9, 1983

The Montana Congessional Delegation
Senate Natural Resoures Committee
Wilderness Hearing
Great Falls

Dear sirs:

Please include these comments in the official hearing record.

I'd like to go on record as supporting the Rocky Mountain Front additions to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas as proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance. The boundaries of these areas have been thoughtfully worked out in a process taking nearly three years and involving more than 30 state and national conservation and sportsmen groups. The development of these areas for logging and speculative energy resources would damage the health of wildlife populations throughout the Bob Marshall Country even as far away as the Flathead Valley where I live.

I urge you to protect these Rocky Mountain Front areas, especially the Deep Creek addition, as federally designated wilderness.

Sincerely,

James Conner

James Conner

27-608 O - 84 - 57

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box
Missoula

Dear Senator Melcher:

Enclosed please find a copy of a syndicated column I write that is presently carried in four Montana weekly papers: Hungry Horse News, Big-fork Eagle, Conrad Independent-Observer, and Eureka Tobacco Valley News. The enclosed column is relative to your recent Congressional hearings in three Montana cities.

I would ask also that you'd include the following in the hearing record: I hope you'll consider favorably Wilderness proposals for the Bob Marshall additions and the Swan Crest Wilderness adjoining on the northwest end. In fact, one might consider including the Swan Crest as part of the Bob Marshall additions -- the reason it was jettisoned by the Bob Marshall Alliance as part of their "additions" proposal was because they feared the northern extension along the Swan Range would politically weaken the rest of the Bob Marshall additions due to its long mountain-top extension. But they didn't adequately consider the depth of Flathead Valley resident's commitment to the Swan Crest, and now it'd appear the Swan Crest proposal has at least as much public enthusiasm as any of the Bob Marshall additions.

Also, please give the proposed North End Wilderness (Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton, Mt. Hefty) areas your attention. With U.S. concern over Canadian coal developments on the Flathead's North Fork, it'd seem imperitive we set some kind of example by a commitment to our North Fork wildland resources. With probably the very best grizzly concentration and overall wildlife variety in all Montana contained in the North End area, it seems imperitive we provide the land with Congressional Wilderness designation as the best and most lasting protection.

And certainly Ten Lakes (8 393 area), also along the Canadian line, is as worthy.

Please carefully consider conservation group's alternative "V". Then the endless battles over land-use allocations would be over.

Thank you for listening....

Sanezever,

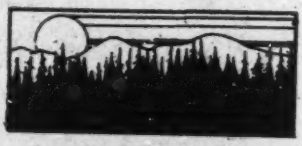
Roland Cheek

Roland Cheek

cc: Sen. Baucus
Rep. Williams

Wild Trails and Tall Tales

By Roland Cheek



I left the "big lonesome" long enough to attend, in Missoula, the July 5 U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing on Montana Wilderness recommendations. Senator John Melcher presided with Senator Max Baucus and Representative Pat Williams in attendance.

It was a high-powered hearing.

Those arguing for and those arguing against Wilderness were high-powered, too. On the "pro" side were representatives of The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, American Wilderness Alliance, and Trout Unlimited. For the "cons": Montana Petrolium Assn., Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Assn., Montana Stockgrowers Assn., and Montana Wood Products Assn.

All in all, 126 people were signed up to testify. Exactly 100 of them did.

Pretty impressive, that hearing. Testimony appeared about evenly divided between wilderness proponents and opponents, with emotion running high in some cases. A fella named Jeff Gardner, testifying for, used a couple of catch-phases I kinda liked. He said: "Let's don't make the Big Sky Country the big scar country," and, "Let's keep the treasures in the Treasure State."

One of the surprises to me at the hearing was seeing both the Missoula City Council and the Missoula County Commission giving testimony in favor of a Great Burn Wilderness proposal west of Missoula. Bigfork Chamber of Commerce made a powerful testimony for the Swan Crest Wilderness, east of the Flathead Valley. In each case, the importance of recreation and tourism was cited as support reasons.

I've felt for some time there was a new "kid on the block," with recreational economics in the picture. Perhaps it's true when City Councils, County Commissioners, and Chambers of Commerce begin picking up on it.

Another surprise was the frequency of statements that compromise agreements had been reached on boundaries of some wilderness proposals. A few come to mind: U.S. Borax and Ascarco people said some Scotchman's Peak Wilderness boundary compromises have been reached with environmental groups. Champion International and Pyramid Lumber said the same thing about the Monture addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the Montana Wilderness Assn. agreed.

Pro and con compromises on anything affecting wilderness haven't been too prevalent in my previous experiences. Perhaps this healthy trend is also an indicator of new realities.

The congressional hearings continued in Anaconda (July 7) and Great Falls (July 9). Senator Melcher said the hearing record will be open for two weeks thereafter. For those who'd like to have their comments included in the record, send them to:Senator John Melcher,
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, MT 59807

521 SW Roaring Lion Rod
Hamilton, Mt. 59840

July 9, 1983

JUL 15 AM 9:49

Senator Max Baucus
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus,

Many of us have written and called your office during the past two years, asking for your support in preserving the two mountain faces just West of Hamilton. This area, called the Canyon Creek Assessment, is now up for timber sale bids the 25th of this month. Since the area is within the Rare II study and you are asking for public input, would you please review our past pleas for your help? This area does happen to be uniquely suited for Rare II; one reason being it's accessibility to the public since it is an area they can easily drive to; hike into; and enjoy from the highway which runs the length of the Bitterroot Valley.

We have appealed the sale of this small area all the way to the Chief of the Forest Service, which favors the local Forest Service, which in turn favors the Timber Industry; so there are many frustrated people in the Hamilton area wondering if their voices are ever heard. We have not objected to logging in general; only to logging and clearcutting this area facing Hamilton which is very valuable as a scenic resource. Please consider including Downing and Ward mountains in the Rare II classification which you are studying.

Sincerely,

Alice Centers

Alice Centers , member of Citizens Against Clearcutting Downing and Ward mountains

cc: Rep. Pat Williams

MEMBERS OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

JOINT SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
PHYSICS

Wise River, Mt. 59762

JOINT SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
JOINT SCIENCE BUILDING
11TH AND DARTMOUTH AVENUES
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA 91711

18 July 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 W. Granite
Butte, Mt. 59701

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing in support of wilderness status for several tracts of land in the Beaverhead National Forest. In order of importance they are:

West Pioneer Mountains
West Big Hole
East Pioneer Mountains

In this letter I will explain my association with the Beaverhead, my expertise in evaluating the land, and my reasons for supporting wilderness.

I have spent some of at least 40 summers in the Pioneer Mountains. For 23 years I have been a PhD in ecology with specific training in aquatics. My professional interest and expertise in land management has developed over the past 15 years. During my professional career I have published numerous research papers, have been an academic administrator, and spent a sabbatical leave as an "Ecological and Administrative Specialist" with the Forest Service (Supervisor's office, Dillon, Mt.). While with the Forest Service I served on the land management planning team and did the aquatic resource inventory for the entire Beaverhead National Forest. As a research scientist I have published several papers dealing with projects in the West Pioneers (2 concerning the rare grayling) and just this month submitted two more concerning West Pioneer aquatics.

At the request of Senator Lee Metcalf I often provided him with information about the Pioneers. In a letter dated 23 May 1977, Senator Metcalf wrote "I want you to know how much I appreciate the valuable work you did on the West Pioneers. Your research was thorough and most helpful to me in rebutting arguments advanced by both the Forest Service and other critics of S. 393." After writing you, Senator Melcher, you sent me a letter dated July 21, 1977 saying "...I can see you have indeed employed your professional expertise in assessing the management alternatives and are supporting sound management practices based on the quality and availability of the various resources. I agree that the emphasis on timber production

for such low quality (Class V and VI timber) does not constitute a balancing of management alternatives on resource availability or quality, and I appreciate your bringing it to my attention."

My main point in providing the background above is to demonstrate that my familiarity with the Beaverhead National Forest spans many years and I have been professionally involved here as a research scientist (I probably know the West Pioneers from an ecological research perspective better than anyone) and as a specialist with the Forest Service in land management as a member of the planning team for the Beaverhead National Forest. Such experience gives me reason, I believe, to hold the views I do regarding these lands and their management, including wilderness management.

According to Forest Service data, logging on the Beaverhead accounts for 1% of the local economy and cannot grow; recreation accounts for 5-10% and is growing in importance. Also according to Forest Service data the Beaverhead is perhaps the worst timber growing forest in the Nation comprised almost totally of class V and VI timber, the obvious reason for its poor economic role. Fisheries are of course excellent with its high quality streams nourishing such blue ribbon trout streams as the Big Hole and the Beaverhead. The West Pioneers contain the only untouched (to now) populations of the rare southern Grayling. The Beaverhead is unsurpassed for its elk populations (possibly also moose) with the West Pioneers possessing perhaps the finest herds.

To anyone who studies wildlife populations (or takes the time to do some detailed reading) it is obvious that the Beaverhead National Forest, with the West Pioneer Mountains leading the way in excellence, attains these qualities largely because of its relatively undeveloped nature. In spite of these truths, the Forest Service wants to heavily road and log as much of these areas as possible. Logging per se is not the major problem. Roading with its attendant problems - access, erosion, impact, harassment, and a much increased catch by the sportsman - result in reduced game and fish populations to that which is average or probably below (because of the area's low productivity) that of other developed lands.

Flowery words and idealistic planning, done in the Supervisor's office by individuals who are not familiar with the population ecology of these species or these lands, do not ever coincide with the actual practice of those activities on the ground. In a dinner conversation last week with Ray Housley of the Washington office of the Forest Service, Ray said "but we will close the roads and thus prevent access and deterioration." As much as I appreciate Ray's leadership in the Forest Service, this is a fine example of idealistic talk not backed by budget, manpower, will, or ability to enforce.

Knowing the Forest Service from the inside as I do, I have found that they have some expertise in timber management, little in other resource areas. They do not have research training and therefore do not know how to go about it in a useful, unbiased manner. (I am not talking about the Forest Service research stations whose scientist's information seldom flows to the men in the Supervisor's or District's offices). The planning team on the Beaverhead under Supervisor Hartgraves had a good cross section of specialists but was <u>multidisciplinary</u>. The 1978

NFMA required that planning teams be interdisciplinary (be able to talk to and understand each other's disciplines). Supervisor Williams labeled his planning team interdisciplinary to conform with the law, but staffed it with a timber and computer specialist and a writer. That to me is either dishonest or even worse (for a man in his position), unknowing. The resulting planning document was frivilous, poorly presented and lacked resource balance. Unfortunately, dishonesty also has been a part of the Beaverhead planning process. The Assistant Supervisor under Hartgraves and Williams provided (I trust knowingly because of my conversations with him on the planning team) misleading misinformation to Senator Metcalf on several occasions, information which I was called upon to evaluate by the Senator (see Metcalf quote above) and correct for his S. 393 hearings, information which was available to anyone in the Supervisor's office. This same individual persistently rewrote the planning document to support timber development to the detriment of other resources over the objections of other team members.

I make these points because the Beaverhead is truly worthy of balanced resource management - management recognizing the ability of the land to produce, management in relation to what is possible, management with some view to the importance and quality of the resource, management with honesty. The Forest Service "land manager" has shown me, both while I was working on the planning team and since, that his goal is timber cutting and timber will be cut no matter the cost to other resources, the cost to the U.S. treasury (the timber cuts planned or already executed on the Beaverhead have been or will be accomplished at a net loss in revenue), or the cost to scientific data, understanding and honesty.

I would prefer to see many Beaverhead lands remain administratively roadless and managed for the excellent multiple resource values they possess, but I have come to see that the Forest Service is politically, philosophically and educationally unable to meet that challenge. I therefore recommend wilderness for the West Pioneers, West Big Hole and East Pioneer Mountains, a situation which will tell the Forest Service not to develop these class V and VI timber lands at a net revenue loss and degrade the unsurpassed big game and fishery populations and water quality in the process.

Respectfully, submitted,

Clyde H. Eriksen
Professor of Ecology and
Director Bernard Biological Station

ASARCO

Northwestern Exploration Division
John C. Balla
Manager

July 15, 1983

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, MT 59807

RARE II - #1-662
Scotchman Peaks Area

Dear Sir:

As a follow-up to my testimony at the hearing on Montana Wilderness Recommendations in Missoula, Montana on July 5, 1983, I would like to submit additional data in support of my comments at the hearing. I would like the additional data to be part of the record of the hearing.

Exploration by ASARCO in the JF area, which includes Ross Point, and the area east of Ross Point, has proven by drilling that ore grade mineralization, similar to that being mined at our Troy mine exists in this area. We strongly believe that this area, along with the Cub Creek area (which is south of Spar Lake) should be excluded from wilderness classification. Both areas are shown on the attached ASARCO map, dated June 16, 1983. With respect to the map, we believe that the area covered by our mining claims should be excluded from wilderness classification.

In addition, we have prepared a brochure on the Scotchman Peaks area, copy attached, which describes the area, and which contains photographs which dramatically show that the JF area, which has been logged and roaded, is simply unsuited for wilderness classification, and should be removed from consideration.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this additional data for the record. In addition, I would like to compliment the members of Congress and their staff for a very well-run hearing.

Very truly yours,

John C. Balla

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-16-83

JCB/dt
Enclosures

ASARCO Incorporated E. 920 Wolverton Court (N. 2900 Nevada) Spokane, WA 99207 (509) 489-7870

July 16, 1983

John Amos
2896 N. W. Savier St.
Portland, Oregon 97210

Honorable John Melcher
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I've had an interest in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area for years primarily due to the presence of grizzly bears existing there and their threatened status. The possible onslaught of energy interests in the Bob Marshall and surrounding areas has given me concern for the continued existence of grizzlies in the northern Rocky Mountains.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Interagency personnel, and other individuals have prepared a document for the recovery of the grizzly from threatened status. The Bob Marshall area is part of the Norther Continental Divide Grizzly Ecosystem which is one of three areas the document concentrates on for the grizzlies recovery, therefore it seems to me that further additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness area would enhance recovery of the grizzly.

I request that the following areas be supported as wilderness by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee: those areas on the Rocky Mountain Front are Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Falls-Creek-Silver King, Teton River, High Peaks and Choteau Mountain. Those areas needed as wilderness additions on the western side are Monture Creek and Swan Front.

I'm sure if most people thought about it they would not want to see the disappearance of the grizzly from its few remaining areas in the lower 48 states. Our history is rich in experience and stories and mystique regarding the grizzly from the time of Lewis & Clark, Indian legends and 19th century trapper experiences. This animal is part of our Western Wilderness and deserves to remain safe from extinction. I believe by adding the above areas to the wilderness system will help enhance recovery of the grizzly from threatened.

Grizzly Bears aren't the only reason for having more wilderness; the reasons are many and have been expressed better by others than I am able to do. But having grizzlies in the Bob Marshall area just makes wilderness additions there that much more worthy. Please make my comments part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

John Amos

July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 W. Granite
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Senator Melcher,
Please make the following comments part of the hearing record concerning wilderness in Southwestern Montana:

1. I am support of a wilderness of 70,000 - 75,000 acres in the West Big Hole region. Since the FS itself has proposed that a significant portion of this area be protected from logging and that it should be protected as a family type recreation area, there is no reason why this area should not be wilderness and protected forever from road building and logging.

2. I support a wilderness of 150,000 acres in the West Pioneer Mountains. This area is incredibly rich in wildlife and recreational quality. I feel that the roadless nature of this area should be protected at all cost. Wilderness is far preferable to all out development. The FS proposes that 400 to 500 miles of roads would need to be built to log virtually the whole area. Since timber here is some of the poorest in Montana, the costs of building roads will exceed the timber value and, as in other areas, the FS will end up building the roads. This is an unfair subsidy to the timber industry.

3. I support making an 88,000 acre area of the East Pioneer Mountains a wilderness area. The FS itself is recommending this area for wilderness classification. → and picking up the tab too!

4. I recommend that a 30,000 acre area of Mussigbrod and Howell Creeks be added to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. The timber in this area is very poor lodgepole pine and also happens to be a critical elk calving area. Please protect it!

All of these areas are important to protect the fishing in the Big Hole River from the likely bad effects extensive logging will have on the river and water release in Spring.

5. I also request that you support wilderness status for the Sapphire wilderness study area, the Storm Lake addition to the AP Wilderness, and the Flint Creek Range in the Deerlodge NF.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration in adding these recommendations to the wilderness hearing records.

Rene Eustace

Mr. Rene Eustace
Boulder Cr. Darby, MT 59829

June 29, 1983

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Melcher:

I am in favor of the Bob Marshall additions to wilderness.

In my opinion the areas are not critical timber producing land or critical oil and gas exploration areas. It is important wild life habitat and recreational area.

I request that my comments become part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Clark
Box 979
Kalispell, MT 59901

ARC/jh

George Cesnik
6422 Whitehaven Rd.
Apt. # 1124
Indianapolis, IN
46254

July 9, 1983

Honorable John Melcher
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I would like you to know that I Strongly support the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. These areas are known as the Rocky Mountain Front, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek-Silver King, / Teton River High Peaks, Choteau Mountain, Menture Creek, and Swan Front. The desig nation as wilderness will help preserve the character of the beautiful Bob Marshall Wilderness. These areas are critically needed for the continued survival of grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, and elk. They have served as wilderness areas in the past without being offically designat ed. I am asking that they become part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness area to provide them the protection they need and deserve. At a time when natural areas across the country are giving way to other uses, we need to Protect our remaining wild areas. As one who has been fortunat enough to visit the Bob Marshall Wilderness, I know how much places like this are needed for our people and wildlife. I would like my comments to become part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

George P. Cesnik

Norman C. Brown
6322 50th SW
Seattle WA 98136

Sen. John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear sir;

I am writing to comment on the bill before you concerning the proposed additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I would like this letter to be included in the official testimony in favor of the additions.

~~I recently traveled to Montana and managed to spend 3 days of my trip~~ in and around the Bob Marshall and the Teton River High Peaks. Having moved to Seattle two years ago I found more peace and happiness in those three days than in most of the two years I had been gone.

I would not trade all the natural gas under the front range for the feeling I got from those hours of hiking. In those hours of solitude I devised a comical but meaningful method of evaluating, in dollars, the worth of my trip. Man-Fun-Hours, (MFH)

Using a standard form of recreation, moviegoing, I found that one (MFH) equals $2.00, given a 2 hour movie costs $4.00. Using a detailed tally system (which I won't trouble you with) I totaled 6MFH in wildlife (5 deer, 1 goat, 5 sheep, 1 rare 13line grnd.squirrel, 1eagle, 3 hawks, grizzly prints and scatt, and a gal from Augusta); 4 MFH -40mile hike ; 6 MFH in scenery (the view from the top of Mount Lockhart); 15 MFH photography ($30.00 in film alone and a source of income); and last, accomplishment, bragging in Seattle = 3MFH.

The total is 34 MFH multiplied by $2.00 per MFH equals $68.00. The trip cost me $25.00 including the double scoop ice cream cone in Choteau. My premise is shakey at best but the point is that I will survive the demands of Seattle much better just knowing it will be there, unchanged, when I need it again. Please do all that you can to prohibit gas leasing on the front.

I hope you enjoyed my letter.

Sincerely; Norman C. Brown

Norm C Brown

710 South Fourth Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840
July 20, 1983

The Honorable John Melcher
Senator for Montana
55 W. Granite
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Senator:

Please enter the following testimony on Beaverhead National Forest Land use in the records of the hearings on the subject.

I have lived in the area of the Big Hole Valley all my life and enjoyed its river and mountains annually. As we all know they are truly great. However, the deteriorating changes I have seen cause one to have real concern as to what qualities these sensitive areas will have within another 5, 20 years.

Development of the area has been wonderful for the timber industry, ranchers and recreationists but it can only proceed so far before the high qualities disappear. The former recreational qualities have diminished alarmingly in the past 5, 10 years.

The fishery has suffered the most because of accessibility as much as the total of other factors such as willow spraying and water runoff changes. One just can't experience the fine fishing that was common ten years ago. Some formerly exciting tributary streams like Trail Creek and the North Fork of the Big Hole have their fishery essentially "wiped out." The fishing in Miners and Twin Lakes is now past history.

There is no need to dwell on the details of the effects of the present rate of development on the wildlife and scenic values. Western Montanans and the nation realize the need for serious husbandry of these resources when the prime spots are considered for logging.

Please do all you can to enhance the classification listed for the following areas:

West Big Hole, 75,000 acres, Wilderness

West Pioneer, Backcountry

East Pioneer, Wilderness

Mussigbrod-Howell Creek, Wilderness

Storm Lake Area, Wilderness

Respectfully submitted, July 20, 1983

Nick J. Kramis

Nick J. Kramis

pk

Anaconda, Montana 59711

Dear Senator:

I am deeply concerned over the Forest Service's plan for 5000 acres of new clearcuts each year for the next fifty(50) years in the Beaverhead Forest.

The areas of concern are the West Big Hole, East & West Pioneers and the Mussigbrod-Howell Creek Areas. All of these areas should be considered for Wilderness. Most of this land is still roadless, and in my opinion should remain roadless. Logging roads and clearcuts along with mining operations, would be a sure way to kill off the large elk herds that now exist, not to mention the beauty of the area to the recreational back-packer.

In much of these proposed logging areas, the cost of harvesting the timber would contradict the value of the product.

Please use my comments as well as others as part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Walt Bethell

July 17, 1983

Senator John Melcher
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing to ask you to strongly support wilderness in Montana, and specifically the Bob Marshall Wilderness Additions.

I do not think anyone on either side of this emotion-charged issue will argue against drawing this to a conclusion, but those of us who support wilderness cannot rest until we have something solid to hold on to. It is unfortunate that anti-wilderness components have made it sound like wilderness designations would, at this time, take such lands completely out of commission as far as future development is concerned, even if serious need should arise. Personnally, I cannot think of any need serious enough to justify developing wilderness, but as I understand it, the Congress will always have the power to permit that. Therefore, wilderness designations are not permanent and this is not a valid argument against wilderness additions.

Wilderness supporters, on the other hand, see a very real threat to the preservation of lands that we have always considered wilderness. Lands that are developed and managed as non-wilderness <u>now</u> can never be made into wilderness. The damage to the ecosystem is too great. It is a one-way street, and all downhill. For that reason, I feel that this is our last chance. Oil, gas, mineral, and lumber interests are closing in so fast that any lands not designated as wilderness will soon be developed to the point that there will be no turning back.

There are areas all around the Bob Marshall Complex which have long been managed as wilderness and have been considered wilderness by the public. Having been managed as such, those lands have become a part of the Bob Marshall ecosystem in terms of both wildlife and recreational considerations. To avoid the corrosion from encroaching development, I feel that they should be preserved as wilderness in the legal sense also. Teton River High Peaks, Renshaw, Choteau, Deep Creek and Falls Creek additons all provide extensions of wilderness to absorb recreational entrances to the Bob Marshall and preserve areas outside the high passes for people to enjoy who cannot take longer trips. The additions bring the wilderness boundaries closer to the natural boundaries the animals have set for themselves. The Monture Creek and Swan Front Additions do the same for the western and southern boundaries.

I think these are excellent proposals, though they seem like so little to ask for considering the value of wilderness. Those lands offer so little in terms of development, and they offer it only once. As wilderness, they would keep giving their most treasured gifts forever.

Sincerely yours,

Jean C. Pfau

P.S. I am late in realizing the deadlines for these comments, and I do apologize. I hope that you can still share my comments with the rest of the Montana delegation and include them as part of the Official Hearing Record. Thank you so very much.

Box 7666
Missoula MT 59807

15 July 1983

Sen. John Melcher
Senate Office Bldg
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Melcher:

I was unable to attend the recent hearings on the fate of the Bob Marshall. I would appreciate your making my comments part of the official record.

We are all aware of the importance of the approaching decision re: possible expansion of The Bob. I want to urge in the strongest possible terms that all 400,000 acreas porposed as boundary additions to The Wildetness Area be so included. The areas include the Swan Front, Teton River High Peaks, Monture Creek, Renshaw Mtn, Falls Creek-Silver King, Chateau Mts and Deep Creek.

Many of these areas were recommended for wilder ness during Rare II, all are essential wildlife habitat, and all are organic parts of the Bob. This last point would be obvious to anyone who travelled at all in the area, but is especially evident to those of us who love the 'crown jewel' of the Wilderness System.

We must do everything possible to protect this marvelous gift to all of us here now as well as all generations to follow. It always seems greedy to insist on all of a proposal, as if some 'sane' voice could always counsel 'compromise.' On actual fact, we have given up so much of what was once rare and beautiful of our state, it is way past time to sall a halt. The Bob needs to be left alone, along with its prize fauna and flora. It certainly serves us well as in-state and tourist attraction. Please draw the line and vote for inclusion of all 400,000 acreas which the Bob Marshall Alliance proposal describes.

This is one thing you should all be able to agree on, as it defines a Montana responsibility. Can you not all four of you agree on this one thing? For us all.

respectfully,
M. Kreisberg
Michael Kreisberg

cc:Sen. Baucus; Congr. Williams; Congr. Marlenee

27-608 O - 84 - 58

1115 S. Grand
Bozeman 59715

Sen. John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear John,

Since I will be unable to attend any of the hearings on the Bob Marshall completion bill, please make this letter part of the record.

It is extremely important that we really COMPLETE the Bob . That must mean:

1. Deep Creek: which may contain the best grizzly habitat that we have. It is also very important to our other wildlife.

2. Renshaw Mountain. Another key grizzly area; as our grizzlies keep on confronting humans in our parks and forests, it's important that our wilderness areas be extensive and rich enough to keep at least SOME of our grizzlies surviving in Montana. We would be immeasurably poorer without our grizzlies.

3. Falls Creek-Silver King. Again, critical for grizzlies; important for bighorns.

4. Teton River High Peaks. A beautiful entryway to the Bob.

5. Choteau Mountain. Worth its weight in gold as wilderness because of its link between the Bob and the Blackleaf Game Range. Also important for grizzly and elk.

6. Monture Creek. People love to travel this area; let's keep it wilderness for them. As more and more people appreciate the out-of-doors, as prime areas become scarcer, future years will show our wisdom in retaining this area.

7. Swan Front. Again, important for our grizzlies and other animals, a beautiful area.

These all are important.

John, Let's do this completion right; we won't have any more chances. Let's let future generations say we did it right.

Sincerely,

Mary Vant Hull

Mary Vant Hull

Mike Ward

Mike Ward

(copies to Rep. Williams & Marlenee, and Sen. Baucus)

July 6, 1983

Box 244
Meadow Creek Road
Fortine, MT 59918

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

We are writing to express our views concerning the Bob Marshall completion bill. It is our hope that the Montana component of a national wilderness bill could somehow maintain a seperate identity.

We favor adding the Deep Creek, Renshaw Mtn., Falls Creek-Silver King, Teton River High Peaks, Choteau Mtn., Monture Creek, and Swan Front areas to the Bob Marshall wilderness complex. Wilderness designation is justified because of the economic value of tourism to local families, and because of the precious irreplaceable and irretrievable wildlife habitat contained here.

Wilderness designation is necessary in order to give these areas Congressional protection and to preserve a unique part of our heritage and national wealth for posterity. The watershed, wildlife, fishery, and recreation values exceed the value of the timber on much of these areas. Grazing will and should be allowed to continue where it already occurs.

The Renshaw Mtn., Falls Creek-Silver King, and Monture Creek areas were recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service during RARE II, a decision with which we agree. We urge designation of the other areas mentioned above as well.

We fear that the Forest Service will not be able to manage for anything but commodity outputs without a Congressional mandate to do otherwise. If the positions of Chief and Regional Forester become political appointments then the management of these valuable lands will be subject to the capriciousness of the political winds, probably on a quadrennial basis. That is a situation we should avoid. We also recommend that any omnibus bill contain "release" and "sufficiency" clauses.

Many of our neighbors feel that wilderness designation is needed for the Ten Lakes Scenic Area on the Kootenai N.F. It is felt that several families would benefit from the resultant tourism and recreation. There is a great fear here that additional road-building would be detrimental and the Forest Service would be under unrelenting pressures to road the mountains every 1000 feet without wilderness designation.

One last, but very important reason why we think wilderness is a good idea. The management of threatened and endangered species would be cheaper, easier and better served in wilderness. Presently, timber-sale and mineral coordination with a listed species habitat is frustrating, sometimes costly and often of dubious value.

We request that these comments be made part of the official record on this subject.

Sincerely,

Art D. DiMeo

Julie DiMeo

Art and Julie DiMeo

The Honorable Senator John Melcher 7/14/83

United States Senate

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I would like to request that this statement be made part of the official hearing record on the matter of the Bob Marshall Wilderness area in Montana.

I support additions of .4 million acres (400,000 acres) to the present Bob Marshall Wilderness complex as proposed by The Bob Marshall Alliance. I believe that it is critical to incorporate entire ecosystems into this wilderness since it is likely that few entire ecosystems will remain following planned energy development in the Bob Marshall area. It is vital for human and wildlife values that the Bob Marshall Wilderness be sizeable and so I fully support additions of .4 million acres.

Though I am not a Montana resident I consider these matters to be of serious national significance and hope they will be approached in this context. I plan to move to Montana in the near future as well.

With thanks,

Thomas Ribe

6079 Wellesley Way N.E.

Seattle, Wa. 98115

STATE FARM INSURANCE

FRED S. THOMPSON, Agent
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Libby, Montana 59923
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July 15, 1983

John Melcher, Senator
Senate Office Building
1123 Dirksen Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Melcher:

PLEASE HELP! Do not extend the time limit for a decision on RARE II. We need to decrease our figures for unemployment in this area now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Thompson

FST/clh

5606 Quartz Ct.
Helena, MT 59601
June 28, 1983

Hon. John Melcher
55 West Granite
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Senator Melcher:

We regret that we will be unable to attend the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands hearing in Anaconda on July 7. We respectfully request that the following testimony be made a part of the hearing record on our behalf:

We deeply regret that the bill to preserve 86,000 acres of the West Big Hole as wilderness failed to pass. As the next best alternative, we emphatically support the Forest Service's proposal to protect the area as a recreation area, provided that the area will encompass most of the study area, and provided that logging will be permanently be banned from the area. The area has exceptional wildlife values, as well as being a crucial watershed, and deserves to be protected for future generations.

We would also like to express our objections to the Forest Service's plans to promote logging in the West Pioneers. We object to having our tax dollars spent to subsidize the cutting of marginal timber. Roads paid for by our tax dollars will damage this fragile ecosystem, and will cost more than the profit from the timber sale. Such roads are of little future value to us as they will cause further erosion, will not be maintained, and will threaten the fine elk herd that now exists. For the same reasons, we advocate annexing the Mussigbrod-Howell Creek Area into the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness.

Also deserving of wilderness designation are the East Pioneers and the Sapphires.

An area particularly important to us is Storm Lake. We have enjoyed this particularly beautiful area many times, and have been dismayed at the severe damage 4 wheel drive vehicles have done to this pristine region. We strongly urge that the Storm Lake area be annexed into the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. This annexation might also serve as a protective buffer to the wilderness area itself, and might help revive the once plentiful herd of mountain goats now disappearing from the area.

All of these land parcels work together to provide an important source for clean water, rare wildlife, excellent fishing, and unsurpassed recreation - entities fast disappearing in our world today. We urge this subcommittee to do everything within its power to preserve these values. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Emery

Richard J. Emery, Ph.D.

June 30,1983

Dear Senator John Melcher:

I request that this letter be included in the official hearing record for the wilderness hearings. Thankyou. I ask your help in securing protection of our wild Montana lands which are in debate. Please propose "Alternative W" for such important areas as these which I am most familar with: Lolo N.F. - Mission Mts. W. A. & Selway Bitterroot W.A.; Flathead N.F. - Northern Swan Crest; Gallatin N.F. - Absaroka Beartooth W.A.; Kootenai N.F. - Cabinet Mts. W.A. & Trout Creek; Bitterroot N.F. - Selway Bitterroot W.A.; Lewis & Clark N.F. - Tenderfoot-Deep Creek ; The Bob Marshall Wilderness Protection Proposal on the Lewis & Clark, Helena, Lolo, & Flathead N.F. - The Swan Front.

These areas specifically (along with others deserving protection & designation as wilderness also) are of vast importance to Montana & its people for their wilderness value & we should by all means protect their waters, plants, & wildlife. These lands not only represent Montana's unique style of western living but they are extremely important to our tourist trade & promotion & also to the sports & outfitting industries and of course these are our places to hike, fish & hunt as well as to spiritually renew ourselves & to be entertained & soothed by such scenic quality & beauty.

Please join & speak for all the Montanans whosesupport "Alternative W" to protect approximately 2.5million acres of Montana's finest remaining wilderness lands. And please speak in our behalf to advocate "soft release" of the other 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness. We need your voice & power to help save & preserve these areas of wilderness for all of us who live in Montana & for the rest of the U.S. as well. Thankyou for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Tallett
Box 196
Whitefish, Mont.

Statement at Missoula Hearing

My name is Phil Robison. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on this issue. I represent myself and I have been backpacking since I was six years old. I've hiked over much of western Montana, including trips in the Crazy Mountains, the Beartooths, the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas, and Glacier National Park.

I have seen Montana's wild lands shrink in my lifetime, and I am concerned. I've grown up in and around the mountains of western Montana and I pray that others will have the same opportunity. I am not convinced that much of Montana's wild areas should be opened for development. These areas are a priceless trasure as they are now — so easy to destroy and impossible to regain. It makes sense to preserve our remaining wild areas for the future. With all the figures an acreage and resources it is good to remember that we are only talking about 7% of the state that is still undeveloped.

I realize that there are natural resources worth a good deal ofmoney in many of the wilderness areas - but the existing uses of these lands are more important right now. These areas also offer an important hardy stock for the state's gene pool. These areas offer a chance to get closer to the natural community and, most important of all, we should respect the right of living things in these areas to live as they have always lived, without interference from us. We can preserve these areas now and in the future. If it becomes necessary they can be developed. But I am confident that future generations will agree with this position. We need to look not just at the economic value of these areas but at the non-economic, the beautiful, the free, the awe-inspiriing values. These areas will never be the same if they are altered.

I also want to support the soft release of those areas not selected for wilderness status. This is just common sense — the future is something we cannot know, and irrevokable decisions should not be made right now. It seems very arrogant and

irresponsible to say that no land should ever again be considered for wilderness designation. Why not keep our options open for the future?

Finally, I wish to offer my special support for two of the proposed areas in Alternative W: the Crzy Mountains and the Northern Swan Creat (which includes Jewel Basin). These beautiful areas deserve our support and protection. I urge you to support Alternative W for the sake of present and future generations of Montanans — and of all United States citizens.

Thank you for your time.

935 Jackson
Missoula, MT 59802
July 5, 1983

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 8-1-83

Oral Testimony Record
Montana RARE II Wilderness Hearings
Missoula, MT

Presented before the Montana Congressional delegation, July 5, 1983, including Senator John Melcher, Senator Max Baucus, and Representative Pat Williams.

Greetings,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Montana's wildlands. My name is Jay Vest and I am a former wilderness specialist with the U.S. Federal Service. I would like to re-emphasize Bill Cunningham's comment that we are here today deciding "how much less wilderness we will have."

The deepest meaning of wilderness is will-of-the-land, emphasizing the will, willful and uncontrolable elements of the land. This conception is a part of our heritage which dates back 3,000 years. We, in America, are largely northern Europeans -- Celts and Goths. These northern Europeans worshipped in sacred groves -- nemetons among the Celts; irminsuls among the Goths and Scandinavians. These sacred groves were wilderness in the deepest sense (cf. my "Nature Awe" for full explanation). Among the ancient Celts, Nature was alive -- nature spirits animated springs, rivers, forests, and mountains -- with the same creative life force that humans share. The Celtic conception of Will Power was extended wholly to nature -- in its entirity -- both the animate and the inanimate were given a compelling will-force "akin to that which impelled [hu-]man... Even stationary nature -- the everlasting hills and the solid earth -- was endowed with feeling, will, and thought. All the mental powers that [hu-]man found controlling his [and her] actions were unconsciously transferred to nature." (Mac Bain: Celtic Mythology and Religion 1977). This "veneration of the oak [and sacred groves] continued among the northern Europeans until their sacred oaks [and groves] literally came under the proverbial axe of the [imperial] Christians." (Taylor, "Tree Worship", [hu-]mankind Quarterly, vol. XX, nos. 1&2, Sept. - Dec. 1979).

This worship in sacred groves is a form of wilderness religion. It is a practice of great antiquity. Wilderness areas are its legacy to this modern era, thus they are sacred lands. The sacred land concept inherent to wilderness comes from the recognition of the land's will which is fundamental to the will-of-the-land -- wilderness concept. Demonstrating this, the 1964 Wilderness Act characteristic solitude breaks down to soul and mood. Thus wilderness solitude is a sacred experience of the will-of-the-land which is effectively communion with nature. Contemporary wilderness users are often in this communion, worshipping upon the land -- in the wilderness. As a consequence, wilderness provides us with our religion.

Oral Testimony - Missoula
Vest --2-- 7-5-83

In America, we have a constitutional gurantee of religious freedom. If this gurantee is to mean anything it must respect all religions, including wilderness religion as outlined above. Consequently, we are obligated to preserve wilderness for this population. Demonstrating a basis for this, we in this country provide tax exemptions to traditional churches and religions. Thus we perpetuate their continued religious freedom. But wilderness is only retained on Public Lands (another ancient northern European concept), so it is only in public wilderness areas were wilderness religion may be practiced. The resultant support by the state is not unlike the tax exemption of traditional churches. Little has been done to inventory and evaluate sacred lands. We do not know, for example, how much exists at large, but consider all the churches, cemetaries, etc. which exist in this country. When compared to the wilderness areas, we surely would find that there are more traditional sacred lands than wilderness sanctuaries.

The wilderness nourishes our religious spirit -- it gives us our sense of <u>will</u>. Wilderness has clearly been our greatest good -- in evolving us as a species and continuing to select for us. It has nourished and developed both our physical and mental capacities. It has given many of us our greatest sense of the divine. It is our sanctuary; our temple, our place of holy communion with the sacred forces of nature. If we are to truly have religious freedom, in this country, then we must preserve ample wilderness. We cannot create more wilderness, we can only preserve that which we have. Our religious freedom mandate, requires us to preserve the remaining wilderness sancturaries for future generations and their freedom of religion.

In the final analysis, we are a species of the earth -- born wild and of the wilderness. Wilderness has given us our life and our religion. Thus the notion that we must use each and every acre for our own teleological purposes is profane and unethical. We must not compromise and violate the sacred trust that is the human birthright by extincting wilderness. Wilderness must be preserved for its own sake, if we are to have communion with Nature and the Earth. Furthermore, humankind has no legitimate right in devoting all wildland to human interests. We are responsible to the wild earth -- the wilderness -- which gave us birth as a species. There can be no other , if it (the Earth and the wilderness) is to survive. Earth is a good little planet, but its wild ecosystems must be sustained if we are to continue our earthly evolution. We are obligated in the final, deepest sense, to insure for time immemorial, a portion of the wild ecosystems -- the wilderness.

The Montana Conservation community's Alternative W is an outstanding proposal. It is both moderate and reasonable, no further compromise is justified. I urge adoption of Alternative W and soft release as your Congressional course of action. Thank you

Jay H. Vest

Jay H. Vest 7-5-83

935 Jackson
Missoula, MT 59802
July 7, 1983

Oral Testimony Record
Montana R.A.R.E. II Wilderness Hearings
Anaconda, MT

Presented before the Montana Congressional delegation, July 7, 1983, comprising Senator John Melcher, Senator Max Baucus, Representative Pat Williams, and Representative Ron Marlenee.

Greetings,

I am Jay Vest of Missoula. Formerly I was a U.S.Civil Servant; a forester and wilderness specialist for eleven years. Recently, these past three years I am a researcher and writer.

First of all, I'd like to address two erroneous notions which have been voiced today:

1)Wilderness by no means is growing; no one can seriously believe that we will have more wilderness tomorrow. Many defacto wilderness will surely be lost with any course of action -- including the Montana conservation proposal -- which has been suggested in these hearings.

2)Wilderness is not a single use activity; it is multiple use. Afterall wilderness is the original source for all landed activities. It is a delusion to suggest otherwise. Conversely, logging, mining, oil and gas development are all hard -- single use -- activities which destroy the lands' capacity for soft -- multiple -- uses. For example, during a one year period in Wyoming, I personally observed the illegal and immoral destruction of over one-fifth (150 of 700 head) of the Red Desert elk herd. This is the last herd in America living on the plains, and elk were originally a plains animal. Two drilling rigs on public lands and the accompanying support roads accomplished this feat.

The sad economic woes of Butte-Anaconda and other parts of Montana cannot be rectified by ripping up the last wildernesses. The question must be ask: Do we have a wilderness dependent economy? If your answer to this question is yes -- that we should develop these remaining wildlands -- then we in this country and this state are in serious trouble. Over ninety-six percent of the land is available for hard economic purposes. The remaining three percent has been reviewed, prospected over and photographed by satelites -- we know what is there and there are no new bonanzas of hard resources awaiting development. Our wilderness dependent economy is dead. We must move to establish a stable steady-state economy which can be maintained on a perpetual basis without sacrificing our remaining wildlands.

Oral Testimony - Anaconda
Vest --2-- 7-7-83

In Montana, we are fortunate to have a small population with the best remaining wildlands of lower America. There are no Los Angeleses here, nor New Yorks, or New Jerseys. (Although in our larger cities we have appalling Californicated strips.) If we sacrifice our wildlands, the costs will be enormous. Among our losses will be our mental health. There is a direct correlation between mental health and overcrowding -- overpopulation. For example, wilderness historian Roderick Nash reported in 1978 that ten incurables -- mentally insane persons -- were taken into wilderness. Upon their return to civilization eight were reported cured and the other two showed remarkable improvement. This is an outstanding commentary on the effects of wilderness theraphy. We cannot afford to sacrifice our mental health here in Montana for the hard development of these few wildlands.

But the real reason to preserve some of these wildlands is not for what we can get from them, but for their own sakes -- for the will-of-the-land. Consequently, as a 300,000th generation Earthling, I oppose the homocentricism that would develop these lands. Some lands must retain their will -- their willedness -- their wildness. We are morally obligated that they do so. If we have any sense of justice, whatsoever, we must preserve some wildland for itself. We should, therefore preserve as much wilderness as possible given that which remains.

I support alternative W. It is a moderate proposal which should not be further compromised, nor should hard release be implemented upon the remaining three million acres.

Jay H. Vest
July 7, 1983

935 Jackson
Missoula, MT 59802
July 9, 1983

Oral Testimony Record
Montana R.A.R.E. II Wilderness Hearings
Great Falls, MT

Presented before the Montana Congressional delegation, July 9, 1983, comprising Senator John Melcher, Senator Max Baucus, Representative Pat Williams, and Representative Ron Marlenee.

Greetings honorable Congressional delegation, I am Jay Vest of Missoula:

In Montana and in America, freedom is a sacred cry. Freedom and wilderness are deeply interrelated. Expressing this relationship, Wallace Stegner called wilderness and the wilderness concept "part of the geography of hope." Wilderness historian Roderick Nash tells us that Americans have always sought new lands for new beginnings. Wilderness has satisfied these needs to be different, to change and to reform.

These two concepts have much in common. In the deepest etymological derivation, wilderness means will-of-the-land; that is it represents will, willfulness, and the uncontrollable elements which are themselves fundamental to true freedom. We recognize freedom as the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice. Furthermore, it is the liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power over another. It is the independence of will.

Our country is founded upon an ethic of respect and concern for the individual, in order to maximize individual will -- freedom. Conversely, the Soviet Union is founded upon a notion of the maximization of utility for the good of the state. There are in this teleological view no exceptions; all are to be considered as a resource for use -- both human and otherwise. Consequently, independent will and freedom are minimized. As a result, we in America spend countless billions to insure our independence of will -- our freedom.

As Stegner suggested, wilderness is a cornerstone of freedom. We must acknowledge that ecological diversity is the greatest in wild places and only recently are we becoming aware of the role which wilderness plays in advancing social and intellectual diversity. Furthermore, we understand the incompatibility of wildness with totalitarian systems where everything is controlled and there is no public place to hide. It is significant that the guerrilla bands opposing such regimes take to the hills or to the swamps. We've had our experiences of this type in Vietnam and other places. Ecologist Raymond Dasmann calls wilderness areas "reservoirs of freedom". And Joseph Wood Krutch spoke of the wild as "one of the permanent homes of the human spirit." The freedom of the wild is the freedom

which permitted us to emerge as a nation -- and as a species. Wilderness has indeed given us our freedom. All our expenditures on national defense and freedom cannot replace this wilderness and its gift of willfullness. If our land becomes domesticated -- void of it will -- then where shall we find our independence of will -- our freedom. What strength will we have with which to oppose totalitarianism?

I urge you to adopt alternative W -- a moderate and reasonable proposal -- which should not be furthered compromised and I request soft release for the remaining lands. Thank you for this opportunity and the patience you have shown in these hearings.

Jay H. Vest
July 7, 1983

DCA MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Capitol Station, Helena, Montana 59601
Thomas L. Judge
Governor

December 16, 1976

Mr. Donald R. Ward, Chief
Business Development Division
U. S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Suite 505-Title Building
909 17th St.
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Ward:

Our office was recently contacted by L. D. McFarland Company of Sandpoint, Idaho, regarding the economic importance of Castle Mountain Corporation within Meagher County, Montana. As you will remember in your letter (November 24) to Mr. Clark of McFarland Corp., you requested more detailed information on this topic. I hope that the enclosed brief description will provide you with this information. If you have more detailed interests, or have any reservations concerning the statement, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bruce Finnie

Bruce Finnie, Economist
Research & Information Systems

BF/ca
Enc.

Ronald P. Richards, Director 406/449-3494

THE IMPORTANCE OF CASTLE MOUNTAIN CORPORATION WITHIN THE MEAGHER COUNTY ECONOMY

INTRODUCTION

Castle Mountain Corporation, a wood products firm located in White Sulphur Springs, represents the largest single employer within Meagher County. Consequently, the long-term growth prospects of the city of White Sulphur Springs are, to a large degree, contingent on the operation of this single facility. Currently, there exists some uncertainty relating to the continued operation of the plant. If the plant were to close, the employment, income and population declines within Meagher County would be dramatic. The purpose of this brief report is to document the overall importance of the plant and to provide an estimate of the economic impact should the new facility fail.

THE ECONOMIC BASE OF MEAGHER COUNTY

Meagher County, one of smaller Montana counties in terms of population, has shown relative stability since the 1970 census. Current population estimates indicate that population levels have not varied significantly from the 1970 count.[1] However, since the 1960 census, the population level declined 23 percent, presumably as a result of a decline in logging and agricultural employment since that period.[2] Unfortunately, reliable industrial data are not available for the county for the period 1960 to 1970.

---

[1]The 1970 population level for Meagher County was 2122; the 1975 level was estimated to be 2200.

[2]Interviews with Forest Service personnel indicate that logging activity reached its highest level in the late fifties, and declined gradually until the early seventies.

The economy of the region is clearly dependent on the county's two dominant sectors, agriculture and wood products, as shown in Tables 1 and 2. Agriculture, the region's historical economic mainstay has shown gradual employment declines since 1970 and will probably continue to decline in the future. Agricultural earnings exhibit such extreme variation that no reasonable inferences can be drawn as to the future outlook for this sector. County level earnings data are not yet available for years later than 1974, but, given current cash receipts data, it is likely that agricultural earnings for the county are about the same as in 1974.

Employment and earnings in the wood products sector, unlike agriculture, have recently increased, with the sharpest increases occurring after the current owners purchased the Castle Mountain Corporation. Even though data are not available for the wood products sector in the fifties and sixties, there is good reason to believe that employment continued to decline gradually up until the ownership change in the Castle Mountain Corporation. When the plant is reconstructed, the employment level in this sector is expected to increase to 188 full-time workers, up slightly from the 1974 level.

Growth in Employment and Earnings in other sectors (trade, services, government, etc.) have in general followed the state and national pattern. Obviously, the continued growth of these sectors is closely tied to the overall level of agricultural and wood products earnings.

TABLE I

EMPLOYMENT

MEAGHER COUNTY

SECTOR	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
*Basic Employment	430	433	420	453	492
Farm Proprietors	140	138	135	133	131
Agriculture	142	154	155	154	167
Wood Products	127	199	106	145	168
Federal Government	21	22	24	21	26
*Non-Basic Employment	429	421	462	463	469
Non-Farm Proprietors	116	120	126	126	126
Construction	7	5	7	5	6
TCU	14	6	7	9	5
Trade	72	68	77	77	83
Finance	13	13	14	12	13
Services	72	70	93	98	95
State and Local Government	135	139	138	136	141
*Total Employment	859	854	882	916	961

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce

TABLE II

EARNINGS

MEACHER COUNTY
(thousands of dollars)

SECTOR	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
*Basic Earnings	3655	3449	5438	6257	3597
Agriculture	2584	2343	4187	4640	1538
Wood Products	855	849	960	1307	1663
Federal Government	216	257	291	310	396
*Non-Basic Earnings	1663	1800	1952	2282	2518
Construction	85	86	73	148	165
Transportation-Utilities	108	71	72	78	88
Trade	503	536	561	621	679
Finance	146	150	162	182	190
Services	233	302	373	502	544
State and Local Government	588	655	711	751	852
*Total Earnings	5318	5249	7390	8539	6115

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce

THE IMPACT OF CASTLE MOUNTAIN CORPORATION - "A WITH AND WITHOUT ANALYSIS"

If mill employment and associated logging activities were to decline, for every job lost in the wood products sector, there would be an additional job lost in the derivative sector. Based on a five-year average basic service ratio of 2:1, the closing of the plant would result in a total employment loss on the order of 378 workers for the county, or approximately a 40% decline in total employment..

A decline of this magnitude would also entail a population loss, in percentage terms, of the same magnitude, with income losses being equally as severe.

SUMMARY

The Castle Mountain facility represents the second largest income and employment generating sector within Meagher County. The overall economic influence of the plant and related activities in all likelihood is the main reason population within the area has not fallen.

Given the uncertainty in terms of income, as well as the likely employment declines in agriculture, the Castle Mountain facility will probably grow in terms of economic importance. In short, the future growth or decline of Meagher County is directly tied to this one operation.

THE BILLINGS CLINIC

NINTH AVE NORTH AT BROADWAY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 35100
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59107-5100

THE BILLINGS CLINIC — HEIGHTS OFFICE
WICKS LANE AT BABCOCK BOULEVARD
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 35104
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59107-5104
(406) 252-4141

83 JUL 27 PM 1:54

ALLERGY
L. Bruce Anderson, Jr., M.D.
DERMATOLOGY
Thomas P. Gormley, M.D.
William H. Brandt, M.D.
EMERGENCY CARE
Elmer W. Bahnmaier, M.D.
Gene V. Fellers, M.D.
INTERNAL MEDICINE
Allen Lee Shadbolt, M.D., F.C.
Semyon R. Brikman, M.D.
Paul V. Hauer, M.D.
Lucinda M. Hurley, M.D.
Heights Office - Barry M. Hollenbeck, M.D.
CARDIOLOGY
Walter C. Degnan, M.D.
John R. Berg, M.D.
Harrison D. Sorenson, M.D.
ENDOCRINOLOGY
Marvin E. Kadrlik, M.D.
GASTROENTEROLOGY
John C. Pate, M.D.
HEMATOLOGY
Warren D. Stuemke, Jr., M.D.
Wilderness and Mountain Medicine
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Ronald H. Smith, M.D.
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Donald I. Tobin, M.D.
NEPHROLOGY
Donald C. Hohn, M.D.
James D. Kesterson, M.D.
PULMONARY AND
CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE
Terrance J. Fagan, M.D.
Nicholas J. Wilmer, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
Philip E. Smith, Jr., M.D.
RADIOLOGY
NEUROLOGY, ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY &
ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY
Dale M. Peterson, M.D.
Pierre J. Dalet, M.D.
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Robert E. Wood, M.D.
Lashman M. Berge, M.D.
PSYCHIATRY
William H. Hogan, M.D.
William J. Crowley, M.D.
PSYCHOLOGY
Robert E. Trenthem, Ed. D.
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
William H. Deschner, M.D., F.C.
Thomas C. Olson, M.D., F.C.
Mark E. Rosato, M.D., F.C.
James R. Morris, M.D.
OPHTHALMOLOGY (AND OPHTHALMIC
Edward F. Harrell, M.D., F.A.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
James R. Reed, M.D., F.C.
ORTHOPAEDICS
Stanley R. Hayward, M.D.
Gregory J. Hall, M.D.
James E. Evans, M.D., F.C.
James F. Schwarzer, M.D.
OTOLARYNGOLOGY
Stephen A. Kramer, M.D.
PEDIATRICS
Alex F. Hammack, M.D.
Francis Kason, M.D.
Paul H. Kaltsas, M.D.
Paul E. Carrillo, M.D.
Heights Office - Warren G. Jones, M.D.
PEDIATRIC, NEONATAL, MATERNAL
AND WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE
John W. Hassel, M.D., F.C.
G. Aaron Johnson, M.D., F.C.
Howard D. Agnew, M.D., F.C.
Paul F. Brindley, M.D., F.C.
Robert N. Hurd, M.D.
John R. Gregory, M.D.
SURGERY
Robert E. Hagerman, M.D.
G. Dale Vermillion, M.D.
John J. Marsh, M.D.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
Jerry D. Wood, M.D.
V. Paul Johnson, M.D.
Bruce C. Pedersen, M.D.
Dean A. Swanhuch, M.D.
CONSULTANTS
RESEARCH, DIRECTOR
Paul V. Hauer, M.D.
Administration
William H. Deschner

July 19, 1983

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirkson Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Baucus:

I am writing in support of alternative W, with regard to wilderness areas in Montana. I think that it is important that we maintain and even expand the areas that are designated as wilderness use areas, and try to prevent unwise or unplanned use of areas that are now wilderness domain. I have personally enjoyed the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and find it to be a real positive part of living in Montana. I think that it is crucial that you be aware of how your constituency feels, and hopefully can give this matter careful consideration.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I remain,

Sincerely yours,

William H. Deschner

WILLIAM H. DESCHNER, M.D.

gr

1983 JUL 28 PM 1:37

Box 849
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873
July 25, 1983

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: RARE II

Dear Senator Melcher:

I would like to see the RARE II study resolved and discarded. I feel that adequate time has been spent on this study.

I feel that all the federal government lands not now designated wilderness should be released for multiple use or whatever use prescribed by the Forest Service.

I am opposed to any more wilderness area than we already have in Montana. We definitely do not need any more wilderness studys.

Sincerely,

William N. Cuddy

William N. Cuddy, Pres.
Cuddy Logging, Inc.

cc: Senator Max Baucus ✓
Congressman Pat Williams
Congressman Ron Marlenee

The Big Sky Country

1983 JUL 14 PM 3:24

MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE BOB REAM
HOUSE DISTRICT 93

HELENA ADDRESS:
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 449-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
3950 WILDCAT ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802
(406) 542-2695

COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES, VICE CHAIRMAN
TAXATION
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

July 9, 1983

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Max,

I was unable to speak at the RARE II hearing in Missoula but I would like to write to you about one area in particular. That area is known locally as the Great Burn and I have spent a considerable amount of time in it over the years. Its stark beauty is an attraction to many of us in western Montana as well as great numbers of big game. One time, as I was hiking through open meadows along the Montana-Idaho divide near Irish Basin, I looked down into a small lake and spotted a large bull moose standing in the lake feeding. At the same time there were 20 elk cows and calves playing on a snowfield behind the lake and on the ridge behind me there were 2 mountain goats resting on a rock cliff. This area is an outstanding wildlife area and recently there have been sightings of the endangered Rocky Mountain Wolf.

I would like to comment in particular on one area that was left out of the Forest Service recommendation for Wilderness. Irish Basin is a magnificent cirque with a headwall that forms the boundary between Idaho and Montana. In summer one can look down from the divide and usually spot elk lying in the beautiful wet meadows or in the shade of small subalpine firs. I have hunted elk all through Irish Basin, and found numerous wallows and a large elk lick. I think this basin is an integral part of the proposed wilderness because it does go right up to the divide. It would be foolish not to include Irish Basin. I support the proposal put forth by the Great Burn Study Group, as they have put years into studying the area, collecting resource data, and examining boundaries. I think they have done an excellent job in their work.

Thank you for attending the hearings and for consideration of my input. I think it will be important for the Montana delegation to come up with a state RARE II bill in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Bob Ream

The Big Sky Country

MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE BOB REAM
HOUSE DISTRICT 93

HELENA ADDRESS:
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 449-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
5950 WILDCAT ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802
(406) 542-2695

COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES, VICE CHAIRMAN
TAXATION
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

July 10, 1983

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Max,

I was unable to attend the RARE II hearing in Great Falls but would specifically like to address my concerns and interest in the Rocky Mountain Front area. I have hiked nearly every drainage, large and small, along the front over the past 10 years and have visited some of the areas numerous times, both in my work and for pleasure. I have hiked the entire length of the front from Rogers Pass at Highway 200 to Glacier National Park, and most of the land I have traveled was right along the front, and not in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

In my opinion the wildest, most beautiful country found anywhere in Montana is contiguous to the east side of the Bob Marshall and particularly that found in the Deep Creek area. Exactly a year ago I spent 8 days traveling from the Sun River to the Teton River through the Deep Creek area with a class of students from all over the country. That was the fourth visit to the area and in each case I have seen grizzly scats, elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. I have also found wolverine tracks and wolf sign in the area. It is an incredible wildlife area! I believe that Ear Mountain and the area immediately west of it should have been part of the RARE II roadless area and should be part of the Wilderness. Apparently this area was left out because of a 30 year old seismic trail that was put up Willow Creek. However, this old road has grown over and is not even discernible now in many places. Ear Mountain was a vision quest site and the entire area around it is outstanding wildlife habitat. In fact the State has acquired a winter game range on the east side of Ear Mountain. I would also urge inclusion of the BLM Chute Mountain Roadless area contiguous to the Ear Mountain area and just south of it.

I also urge you to include the Renshaw Mountain and Falls Creek areas as well as the BLM Wilderness Study Areas on the front in a RARE II wilderness bill. The Rocky Mountain Front is a unique ecosystem, like no other in Montana or the west as a whole. It is the only place I know where the great plains run so abruptly into the Rocky Mountains. That is why it is so significant to wildlife and was significant to pre-white inhabitants. I know this area very well and if I can be of any assistance to you in your deliberations on it please do not hesitate to call on me. Thank you for your consideration of the Rocky Mountain front in a RARE II bill.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Bob Ream

1983 AUG -1 PM 3:04

July 21, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
United States Senate
SH 706
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am writing to encourage your support of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area in western Montana. I live with my family in Superior, Montana, where I am employed as a game warden by the Montana Department of Fish and Game.

I am intimately familiar with the Great Burn area, having entered it many times as part of my work and for personal recreation. I have personally made several sightings of grizzly bear and wolves in the Great Burn, and I feel that both of these animals greatly need the protection that would be afforded by wilderness designation.

The Great Burn is an unspoiled, rugged area, high in wilderness attributes,as recognized by the Forest Service's RARE II study, which recommended it for instant wilderness. Fishing and big-game hunting in the Great Burn are excellent, and provide a boon to the Mineral County economy.

I believe that the Cache Creek, Kelly Creek and Swamp Creek drainages are an integral part of the Great Burn area, and should be included in wilderness designation.

I would appreciate it if you would include this letter in the public comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gary Chambers

Gary Chambers
Route 1, Box 3050
Superior, MT 59872

CONCERNING MONTANA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

After careful consideration, I strongly recommend:

I. Alternative "W" as developed by the Montana Wilderness Association;

2. That sufficiency legislation is at this time important, but that the Alternative "W" lands must be protected;

3. That release of some roadless areas will be in the best public interest but such release should not be permanent. Periodic reconsideration, along with Forest Service committment to maintaining these release lands in an essentially roadless condition, is necessary.

I was born in Missoula, raised in the mountains- backpacking, canoeing, logging, fishing, and enjoying- and I greatly value wilderness for its beauty, economic, watershed, and "American individual strengthening" resources. I am personally familiar with I/3 of the Alternative "W" areas.

I also greatly respect the need for the timber industry and for ranchers to have access to lands which support their ways of life. However, I feel that the following considerations are most important in deciding in favor of the above-mentioned Wilderness Alternative:

A. Wilderness, once opened to logging, roads, development, and heavy grazing, will lose its essence forever, whereas with the development of synthetic materials, and changes in American diets, the timber and ranching industries most likely will not increase or maintain their current need for Forest Service lands.

B. We need to set aside easily accessible, easily controlled land to make timber growth and harvest most efficient and economical. The roadless areas of Alternative "W" will not take away from this needed land use resource.

C. So far, Montana has not been subjected to the tremendous influx of wilderness users, as have California, Colorado, Washington, and, increas-

Ken Grant, 326 W. Sussex, Missoula, Montana, 59801

II

CONCERNING MONTANA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

ingly, Wyoming. We must set aside enough wilderness, which is now available, to absorb the boots and hooves of many CENTURIES of expanding world population and/or increasing need for natural recreation opportunities. Montana will increasingly be discovered by backpackers, and developers, as well as loggers. I'd like to come back to Montana in two or three hundred years, to see if we're still a unique and precious state. Will the people be proud of our outdoor heritage? Will our wild lands be strong with appeal and promise, and not mere replications of other short-sighted management plans?

D. We must not assume that we are the most competent people in Montana's history to decide on the limits of wilderness boundaries:

Are we generous enough, rich enough, to preserve ample wilderness for a generation yet to come who will be sensitive enough to utilize the spiritual resources of nature more completely than we do?

Have we developed the most efficient conservation practices for the resources we feel we need to take from potential wilderness areas?

Are we wise enough to allow places where the laws of nature may be visibly expressed in balance, harmony, effectiveness, and beauty, as a model for restoring the balance of nature to our cities and farms?

Finally, can we present Montanans respect each others' needs, and the needs of our still natural areas, to decide the boundaries of wilderness in practical terms for ourselves, and in wise terms for the future?

Ken Grant, 325 W. Sussex, Missoula, Montana, 59801

DICK HIRSCHY CATTLE, INC.

PO C

[redacted], MONTANA 597[redacted] 3[redacted]

Jackson

July 7,1983

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
ATTENTION: SENATOR JOHN MELCHER

My name is Dick Hirschy of Jackson, Montana and I wish to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for RARE II hearing in Anaconda, Montana.

I am a third generation Montanan. My grandfather homesteaded in the Big Hole Valley and I have lived here all my life. I am quite familiar with the West Big Hole and the West Pioneers. I oppose Wilderness designation for these two areas.

The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in Beaverhead County for the last 12 years. They have made two very costly reports and recommendations on roadless lands in Montana and no legislative action has been taken to date. I am tired of our time and tax money being used for these Wilderness studies. Congress should act immediately to settle the RARE II issue and release those lands not identified for Wilderness.

I do not want any additional Wilderness in Beaverhead County or Montana. Montana has 5,033,253 acres of single use lands. Natural resources are the backbone of our economy and without the ability to use them wisely jobs and a way of life that is special to Montana will be lost.

Yours truly,
Jane & Heidi Patter

BENNETT OWEN TRUCKING

DILLON, MONTANA 59725

To whom it may concern:

I am against any further study on wilderness study areas or further rare reviews as they have been vastly over done already. Nearly all of the industries in this area depend to a great extent on the natural resources available and they support the ones that don't. I employ ten people and have had to spread the work very thin the past few years to keep them on. I blame a great deal of our unemployment and related problems to the beurocratic morass that has prevailed the last twenty years. It appears to me that the state and federal goverment have done their best to make a large national park out of Western Montana. Now that the economy is looking better I would hope our elected representatives would dedicate themselves to minimizing the negative polices that a few of us have survived and promote ideas that strengthen the economy.

I am also very interested in the recreational aspects, being an avid snowmobiler, hiker, hunter, ect.

I think roadless areas create the worst possible discrimination situations by effectively excluding older and disabled people from places they have been enjoying all their lives.

Yours truly,

Bennett A. Owen

Bennett Owen
Bennett Owen Trucking, Inc.
235 S. Idaho Street
Dillon, Montana 59725
(406) 683 4918

To enter into the hearing record of the
US Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands & Reserved Water

Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Public Lands Sub Committee
Attn: Sen. John Melcher

My name is John (Jock) H. McDowell and my wife Kathy, and I wish to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for RARE II in Montana.

I am a third generation Montana rancher on the same ranch that my Grandfather and Father purchased in the 1940's. We graze cattle on the South Steel Creek allotment in the West Pioneers of the Beaverhead National Forest.

The Forest Service has made two very costly reports and recommendations during the last twelve years on roadless areas in Beaverhead County and there has been no firm legislative action taken. We feel any further studies would be a blatant disreguard of our Congressmans' time and taxpayers' money.

We do not want any more wilderness in Beaverhead County or Montana, as we already have some 5,000,000 plus acres of single use lands. We need multiple use lands in order to maintain a healthy economy and a way of life that is special to the people of Montana.

Where is the legislative backbone? Please act now on RARE II.

Thank you.

John (Jock) McDowell
John (Jock) H. McDowell

Kathy M. McDowell
Kathy M. McDowell

JACK HIRSCHY LIVESTOCK, INC.

PHONE 406-689-2500

JACKSON, MONTANA
59736

July 7, 1983

Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Public Lands Sub Committee

Attn: Sen John Melcher

Dear Senator Melcher:

My name is Jack Hirschy and I wish to have this statement introduced to the hearing record for RARE II hearing in Montana.

I am a third generation Montanan, and native of the Big Hole Valley. My family grazes cattle on the Ruby Creek allotment of the Beaverhead National Forest. It is not within the proposed Wilderness Area of the West Big Hole, but it forms the northern boundary and our ranch borders the eastern boundary in many places of the proposed area for Wilderness in the West Big Hole.

The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in Beaverhead County for the last 12 years. They have made two costly reports and no legistlative action has been taken. Too much time and toomuch of our tax money has been used for these wilderness studies. Congress should act immediately to settle the RARE II issue and release those lands not identified foor Wilderness.

I do not want any additional Wilderness in Beaverhead County or in the Big Hole or in Montana. We have over the years managed to maintain a relationship with our enviroanment through a liberal investment of hard work and common sense. The majority of you who advocate wilderness as the salvation of mankind will never experience the environment of Southwestern Montana with the perception of those of us who have made our livelihood here. By the very nature of our occupations we have developed an awareness and appreciation of our natural surroundings that few people are priveliged to enjoy.

Yours truly,

Jack Hirschy

Jack Hirschy, Rancher

JACK HIRSCHY LIVESTOCK, INC.

PHONE 406-689-2500

JACKSON, MONTANA
59736

July 7, 1983

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Public Lands Sub Committee
Att: Sen John Melcher

Dear Senator Melcher:

My name is Frederick Hirschy and I wish to have this statement introduced to the hearing record for RARE II hearing in Montana. I am a fourth generation Montanan and native of the Big Hole. I do not want any additional Wilderness in Beaverhead County or Montana. Montana has over five million acres of single use lands. Natural resources are the backbone of our economy and without the ability to use them wisely jobs and a way of life that is special to Montana will be lost. The Forest Service has made two very costly reports and recommendations for roadless lands in Montana and No legislative action has been taken. Congress should act immediately to settle the RARE II issue and release those lands not identified for Wilderness.

Thank you for this opportunity to make my statement.

Frederick Hirschy III
Rancher, Jackson, Mt.

Fred Hirschy

27-608 O - 84 - 60

JACK HIRSCHY LIVESTOCK, INC.

PHONE 406-689-2500

JACKSON, MONTANA
59736

July 7, 1983

Energy and Natural Rexources Committtee
Public Lands Sub Committee

Attn: Senator John Melcher

Please include the following statement in the official record of the RARE II Hearing in Montana.

My name is Ann Hirschy and I have lived in The Big Hole Valley ranching with my family for fourty years. My grandchildren now living on our family ranch are fith generation Montanans.

I do not want any additional Wilderness in Montana, Beaverhead County or the Big Hole. The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in our county for the last twelve years, and I resent the time and our tax money used for these Wilderness Studies. Congress sould act immediately to settle the RARE II issue once and for all and release those lands not identified for Wilderness. Natural Resources are the backbone of our economy and withour the ability to use them wisely jobs and a way of life that is special to Montana will be lost.

Thank You,

Ann Hirschy

Ann Hirschy,

Rocking Chair Ranch

PHILIPSBURG, MONT.

Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Public Lands Sub Committee
Attn: Sen. John Melcher

My name is Dave Vietor, and I wish to have this statement introduced to the hearing record for RARE II hearing in Montana.

I am a 3rd generation Montanan. We graze cattle on the Stewart Lake, Gold Hill, and Wyman Gulch allotment in the Deer Lodge National Forest. A section of out allotment is in the proposed wilderness and RARE II area on the Stewart-Gold area.

The Forest Service has been making studies in the RARE II area for the past number of years with no visible or workable results showing. Our time and tax monies used for this purpose is a waste and should be discontinued. Congress should release these lands back for use.

Montana has over 5 million acres in single use lands now, and we do not need any more! This is an unnecessary tie-up of natural resources and lands that are a benefit to the people of this county, state and country, and they should not be locked away for sole use of week-end users from our urban areas.

I feel it is time that Congress listens to the people that use this country for the production of food and fiber for all of us instead of the few that just wish to sit and look at it with no benefit to the whole.

We need no more Wilderness or RARE II areas in this county, and I strongly oppose any movement to instigate the formation of same.

Sincerely,

Dave Vietor

Dave Vietor

Bass Enterprises Production Co.
1000 Writer Square
1512 Larimer Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1687
(303) 571-1314

1983 JUL -6 PM 2:23

June 29, 1983

Senator Malcolm Wallop
SR206 United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John Melcher
SH730 United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Deep Creek Planning Area
Lewis and Clark National Forest

Gentlemen:

We have been advised of certain Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water meetings that will be taking place in Montana; more specifically, July 9, 1983 in Great Falls, regarding the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Deep Creek Planning Area.

Bass Enterprises Production Co. is the owner of certain oil and gas rights granted under Federal leases issued in the area. We believe the eastern portion of the Lewis and Clark National Forest is an area which has potential for oil and gas production. This area is in its infancy as far as exploration efforts by the oil and gas industry are concerned. This is mainly due to the complex structural nature of this area and the fact that until recently the industry did not possess the tools to unravel these complex areas. The surface structural trends, the suite of rocks and limited seismic data indicate that subsurface conditions in this area are similar to areas in Canada and further southwest in Wyoming and Utah, which are productive of oil and gas.

We would request that the acreage in the Deep Creek Planning Area be returned to multiple use classification with specific restrictions (stipulations), as required, attached to future oil and gas leases.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views in this matter.

Very truly yours,

T. C. Siirola
Division Landman

TCS/jc

2110 Bradbrook Court
Billings, Montana 59102

July 18, 1983

Senator John Melcher
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Dear Sir:

Please include the following comments to be included in the hearing record on the "omnibus wilderness bill." These comments pertain to southeastern Montana; I submitted comments to your Missoula office for areas in southwestern Montana that I have interest.

The "Tongue River Breaks" deserves protection. The area is the only example of "eastern ponderosa forest" to be considered in the Rare II recommendations. The label "eastern ponderosa forest" is somewhat of a misnomer. A. W. Kuchler, when he prepared his "Potential Natural Vegetation Map" in 1966 for the USDI Geological Survey, must have been aware of the geographical range of the ponderosa pine, a truly western tree. The "Tongue River Breaks" represents an area in the "eastern" portion of the range of this great western tree.

Ponderosa pine, in its "eastern" range, is an altogether different tree than it is west of the Continental Divide. It isn't the big spectacular species it is in western Montana or on the east slope of the Cascades. Without thinking, one could say we have lots of scrub pine in our parts. But there is a little more to it than that! There is a lot going for the idea that, in protecting different natural areas, we should try for at least one of each "kind." The "Tongue River Breaks" provides this.

The site scored high on wilderness values, too. It does have coal possibilities, however; not on the "breaks" itself under present mining methods but in the vicinity. This is probably the reason it was dropped from consideration for wilderness. However, I believe the other considerations outlined above outweigh the coal company objections.

A word is in order about the idea advanced by A. W. Kuchler when he drafted his "potential natural vegetation" (PNV) map. Kuchler, then of the University of Kansas, along with R. G. Bailey of the Forest Service, are as good as any that I know of when it comes to talking about the kinds of land forms, vegetation, and allied knowledge. We have this "eastern ponderosa forest" in the Bull Mountains and some of the other isolated ranges in Montana, but in no other location besides the "Tongue River Breaks" has a suitable area been proposed for protection. We need to preserve "samples" of the different areas. Some we have many protected; some we don't--and this is one.

The other area I would recommend is "Lost Water Canyon" in the Pryor Mountains. It is a wild inaccessible canyon that will go well with the BLM and National Park proposals for land use. The fact that different agencies "own" or "control" land on a map should not be a bar to a comprehensive "land use plan" if the boundaries thereby included form a natural and unique area. One feature that would be included is the "Big Ice Cave." The Pryor Mountains at this time are little known and in fact overlooked. Now is the time to get this area into protection. The Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area is to the east, separated from the "Lost Water Canyon," which is in the Custer National Forest, by some Bureau of Land Management land. All of it should be managed for protection and down the road we would have quite a wonderful piece of land, not too far from a city of 100,000 plus projected by the year 2000 to be twice that.

Very truly yours,

James Phelps

JAMES PHELPS

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Representative Ron Marlenee
Representative Pat Williams

WESTERN SANDERS COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

July 10, 1983

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Federal Building
c/o John Melcher
Missoula, Montana 59807

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-13-83

Dear Sir:

The subject of this letter is a Proposed Scotchman Wilderness area and the current Rare Two hearings being held here in Montana.

The original Forest Service recommendation of 1979 was a fair and reasonable area for Wilderness. There is a middle area which may be used to negotiate a compromise between the Wilderness organizations and the timber, mining and private property owners. But the area designated A1-622 certainly should not be considered for Wilderness. As maps indicate, it is surrounded on three sides by major state highway and also private property boundaries. It is indefensivable that this could be considered Wilderness, there are roaded areas, major commercial gravel pits, merchantable timber and proven mineral values.

We've already experienced conflicts with local residents on land views of the forest adjacent to private property. Without question, there must be a multiple use buffer area between the Wilderness and the private property and highway in the area. This could easily be resolved by deleting A1-662 (W) (Point of land jutting out from the basic wilderness area). 12,544 308

Sanders County has a total of only 23% private land and 77% is federal state or reservation. Furthermore, 89% is forest and only 17% is other. We need the economic base for taxation and accounting and Wilderness cannot provide this. It would be inconceivable to allow the entire parcel to become wilderness. And those of us living on the private land feel we have a defendable position in the course to prevent the collision of Wilderness against private property and the major

highways. The local soil conservation district, Taxpayer's Association, and the local Homeowner's Association are coordinating our efforts to ensure a reasonable solution is reached.

Would you please advise us at your earliest opportunity as to what your recommendations are going to be concerning the boundary line of the Scotchman Wilderness area so we may know what action, if any, will have to be taken on our part. It is our sincerest hope that a reasonable solution with both sides yielding some area will result in a reasonable size boundary for the Wilderness, and it should not come close to the highway or private property.

Respectfully yours,

C D Peterson

C. D. Peterson
Coordinator

cc: Senator Max S. Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

We wish this the above to be included in the hearing record concerning Rare II hearing held by the public land sub. committee.

GEORGE W. BERG
Owner and Manager of Berg Lumber Co.
Manufacture of Lumber Products
Lewistown, Mt. 59457

By Limiting the amount of land that can be used for the harvest of timber puts too much pressure on the Timber Base that we now have, and starts a terrible cycle. The large Lumber Company's over bid what little timber is put up. You see it dosen't hurt them as they already own thousands of acres of timber and it just makes there standing timber worth that much more. This drives thesmaller Lumber operators out causing the price of lumber to go up which causes housing to go up. Over bidding also sets a base rate that is too high for the small lumber man to make it. Now everyone say's " what about the small business setaside sales" , you look at the definition of small business. It is five hundred employee's or less, that still dosen't help the small lumber man. He is being pushed out bybig business, Ecologists and Organization with large sum's of money putting pressure on the courts to take his timber base away.

Our forefathers saw this happening so they set up a balance of power. How many believe we live in a democracy, now how many believe we live in a republic ? The difference between a republic and a democracy is let's say some of us decide to cut your hair off, in a democracy under majority rule we can do it. In a republic everyone, no matter how small, has the right and is protected by the republic and if you had the majority of votes you still couldn't cut your hair off. The Unites States of America is a republic, if not when we pledge allegiance to the flag and call it a republic with Liberty and Justice for all , then we are just hypocrites. We have now

determined that the majority dosen't rule in the United States. In Montana we are few pepole compared to the East Coast and California so why should these pepole be able to push us so hard and take away our timber base.

In my situation my family has sawn lumber in this area for over a hundred years. My grandfather sawed logs to make lumber for old Fort Miggines up in the Big Snowy Mts. I have cut logs in the Forest Service in the Big Snowy Mts. and there have been others- Luther's Pratt's, Evans, Cary's Aldrich's, Kramlich's and many others. Now under big money pushing the courts, majority rule and big business they are preposing to put the Big Snowy Mountains in a PRIMITIVE area (no logging). With the Big Snowy Mts. shut off I have to go to Belt Mts. and bump heads with five or six other lumber men and there isn't enough timber base there to support more than one mill. So it really puts a bind on the small lumber man. Now the small lumber man dosen't have any big money to hire lawyers to push the Supreme Court of California. By the time he pay's his employee's, Workmans Comp, Social Security, Unemployment, State and County Taxes and liscence there isn't any money left.

The small lumber man dosen't recieve any tax free donations so there isn't any money to hire lawyers. Under the republic of the United States, I believe, [redacted] big business, Big organization for big money should not be able to set policy. There should be justice for all.

THANK YOU

P.S WE HAVE ABOUT
50 EMPLOYES

United States Senate
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
Public Hearings on Montana Wilderness
Great Falls, Montana
July 9, 1983
Submitted by: Jennifer Kolmes, Librarian, College of Great Falls

I'd like to urge this delegation to push for adoption of a proposal put together by a coalition of Montana conservationists, including the Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana Chapter of Sierra Club. This proposal, known as "Alternative W," for wilderness, wildlife, way of life, would protect three million acres of wilderness (RARE II's 600,000 plus an additional 2.2 million identified by the groups) while releasing the other three million acres to development. This plan would also call for "soft release" of those lands not chosen for wilderness designation at this time, meaning that those areas may eventually be reconsidered. Areas near to Great Falls which would receive wilderness designation under this plan include: Tenderfoot-Deep Creek; Nevada Mountain, Camas Creek, and Mt. Baldy.

Why is it necessary to put so much land out of the reach of "useful" enterprise? My answer to that question is that as Montanans, we want to make it clear at this time that we are firmly committed to the protection and preservation of Montana's pristine wildlands. As someone who moved to Montana recently from a state which has no officially recognized wilderness, I am in a good position to testify that without such a designation Montana's wildlands will unquestionably suffer. In Ohio where I was born and raised, I have seen whole hillsides eroded and washed into the valleys as the result of makeshift roads bulldozed up the hillside by loggers and drillers. I have seen once clear and thriving streams clouded and the fish destroyed by run-off from mines. These things are commonly seen within the boundaries of the Wayne National Forest in Ohio! The people who live in this part of Ohio and who care about this land are powerless to protect it from the "rights" of a minority (often people from outside the area) who benefit from this kind of development.

So I say that Montana can spare another three million acres to set aside as unspoiled wilderness for those who live here to enjoy. Montanans will benefit economically from this arrangement too as dollars from vacationing tourists continue to pour in over the years. Tourism profits are profits which stay in the state, for the most part, and will contribute to the financial health of the local communities.

With these thoughts in mind, I urge that Alternative W be adopted as a vital step towards assuring that our children, and our children's children, realize beyond any doubt that Montanans in 1983 appreciated the value of their wilderness.

July 9, 1983

Gentlemen:

Good afternoon, my name is Nick Poncelet. I am a native Montanan and have lived in the rocky mountain region of Montana over 40 years. I am an outdoor enthusiast active in traveling the mountain areas of Montana. In that scope I and my family ride trail bikes and snow cats.

I have covered most trails from the snowy mountains of Lewistown, areas around Harlotown Whitesulfur and Great falls South West and North west to the summit. I have covered hundereds of miles of trails in the Flathead area also. I have been doing this since 1958.

The main advantage of trail bikes is I can travel in to the back country 20 miles or more, have a picnic, site see or pan pan gold and ride back out the same day. You cannot do that on foot or by horseback. The way things are to day I cannot take time to go on foot or horseback because I am too busy trying to make a living to support a family, therefore I am limited severely if I cannot take a trail bike.

Now that my children are getting old enough to ride the trails I would like to take them through this same country I have toured, but low and behold many of these trails that I have covered are now closed to motorized travel.

Now in the present direction forest planing is taking, most of the places I have went and like to go will be closed and my children will never see them. I say enough is enough, there is allready sufficient primative areas.

Our need for the people of the State of Montana will be best served by allowing multiple use of our forest lands to provide recreation, good economic base and most of all jobs.

I wounder is all this land lockup, a back door way for big brother type of government to gain more control over the people by limiting their travel and access to public lands. Maybe our fore fathers who wrote the U.S. Constitution limiting the government and it's powers had the foresight of what is happening to day, for what they wrote in article I sec 8 Ph 17 and the tenth admenment of the U.S. Constitution.

"To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such Distric (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all places purchased by the consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, Dockyards, and other needfull buildings;"

" Article X , The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, Nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Federal government has ignored the supreme law of the land, will they ignore the will of the local people who live in the areas affected. Let's have the local people have the say what goes on in their local areas, and get this matter settled.

Nick Poncelet

Nick Poncelet
Box 1023
Whitefish, Mt. 59937

Senator Melcher:

I am George Raths from Roundup, Montana. Our family owns and operates a ranch west and northwest of Roundup.

Our property adjoins the east edge of the proposed Big Snowies Wilderness and we have a permit within the proposed area.

Any regulation that would curtail the use of vehicles into this area would create a large problem for us. Salt and mineral have to be hauled in every week. The only source of water is a weak spring which has to be checked twice a week. The boundary fence needs a lot of repair because of game and snow damage.

The Big Snowy Mountains with trails going up into their canyons and on the ridges is a favorite place for the local ranchers and people from the surrounding towns to hunt deer, elk, goats, bear and turkeys; to have a picnic; to hunts rocks and artifacts; to hike and pick berries and just get out and relax.

In the winter, the Big Snowies are a great snowmobile area and sometimes it is the only snow around. The part of the Big Snowy Mountains I am familiar with has many vehicle trails leading into the mountains. Maynard Ridge trail goes to the top, a trail up Careless Creek goes to the top. Swimming Woman Creek has a trail navigable by car, Horsethief, Red Hill and Twin Coulee all have trails that are accessable by pickup or 4x4. I'm sure this is true on the otherside of the mountain too.

To eliminate the vehicle associated recreation in the Snowies would deprive many people of a place to go. Private and Public lands in Central Montana are already overtaxed for recreation. Curtailment of use because a few want it to t hemselves does not make sense..

These people who use these mountains for vehicle associated recreation do not have wealthy state and national organizations to prompt them to attend hearings and give testimony. They probably are not even aware of this hearing. They are not professional hearing attenders.

Let's leave the Snowies to be managed as they have been in the past. Except for a heavy regrowth of timber, they haven't changed in the sixty years I've known them and they are a great multiple use area. I just can't see any threat to the naturalness of this area. In fact it gets more primative.

Barbara D. Rhodes
Route 1, Box 1945
Libby, Montana 59923

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RECEIVED
JUL 11 1983
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 6, 1983

Official Committee File

Dear Congressman Williams, Baucus, Melcher, and Staff of Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I want to correct a mistake in my testimony before you on July 5 at Missoula. The acreage figure I gave for the Scotchman Peak Wilderness was inaccurate.

My intention is to endorse the maximum acreage including Star, Hamilton, and Napoleon Gulches, and the Pellik Ridge on the southern boundary of the west cabinets.

Thank you again for taking time to listen to public comments.

Sincerely,

Barbara D. Rhodes
Natural Resources
League of Women Voters of Montana

Barbara D. Rhodes

951

1983 JUL 18 AM 10 54

July 11, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
United States Senate
5327 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

My family and I reside in Superior, in Mineral County, Montana, where I work for the Mineral County Road Department. I am writing to recommend the Great Burn area for wilderness designation as proposed by the Forest Service. The wilderness should also include Cache Creek, Swamp Creek and Kelly Creek.

My family and I have enjoyed this area for many years. In addition, I am a licensed guide with Hoodoo Outfitters, and guide hunters, fishermen and others in this scenic and unique area. It contains all the major big game species and there have been documented sightings of wolf and grizzly bear.

I was unable to attend the July 5th hearing because of work, but would like my comments to be made part of the record.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Zimmer

Walter M. Zimmer
P.O. Box 362
Superior, MT 59872

DOUGLAS R. AUSTIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P. O. BOX 297
SUPERIOR, MONTANA 59872
TELEPHONE 406 - 822-4771

1983 JUL 18 AM 10 54

July 17,1983

Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Great Burn Proposed Wilderness

Dear Senator Melcher:

I was unable to attend your committee hearing in Missoula on July 5. If possible, I would request that this letter be entered into the record.

I am a resident of Mineral County, and I practice law in both Mineral and Missoula Counties. I have done so for eight years. Prior to that, I worked as a logger off and on for seven years. Much of my logging experience occurred in the Fish Creek drainage in general, including the area around Surveyor Lake. Surveyor Lake was included in the original Forest Service wilderness recommendation for the Great Burn area, but was later deleted.

I have also hiked, fished and camped in most of the Great Burn area on the Montana side, and in some of the Idaho side. I have taken visitors from out of state to this area.

I would like to recommend in the strongest terms possible that the whole Great Burn area, as originally recommended by the Forest service, be classified as wilderness.

The timber potential is minimul and the mineral potential is unproven. Most importantly, the area is ideal for wilderness. The lakes, streams, terrain and wildlife are pristine and create a peace that is difficult to describe. I have also spent time in the Bob Marshall and the Bitterroot-Selway wildernesses. In my opinion, the Great Burn equals or exceeds these others in wilderness potential.

I am quite disturbed that the lower Cache Creek-Irish Basin area has been excluded from the Forest Service recommendation. This is an integral part of the ecosystem and trail system. It would be a great loss if this area was not included.

I believe it would also be unfortunate to exclude Surveyor Lake. I believe this is the only Alpine Lake which the Forest Service has excluded.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Very truly yours,

Douglas R. Austin

Douglas R. Austin

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Pat Williams
Governor Schwinden
Great Burn Study Group
Judge John Henson

619 First Street
Helena, MT 59601
July 15, 1983

JUL 18 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 West Granite
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Sen. Melcher:

Please include this letter in the record for the U.S Senate Public Lands Subcommitte hearing on Montana wilderness.

I strongly support Alternative W. Only it would adequately protect the small remnant of wild lands in Montana.

I am particularly anxious to see wilderness designation for:

Absaroka-Beartooth additions	60,000 acres
North Absaroka additions	3,000
Lionhead Mountain	22,400
Crazy Mountains	90,000

All of these lands are a part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which is not only of paramount national importance as a recreation area and essential wildlife habitat, but is threatened by a variety of unsuitable proposed uses. Wilderness designation is necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of this unique ecosystem.

Any wild lands not protected as wilderness should not be precluded from wilderness consideration by future forest planning. The loss of wilderness is irrevocable; we must carefully consider such decisions.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson

cc [redacted]
Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

1983 JUL 20 AM 10 52

July 11, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
United States Senate
5327 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am writing to recommend the Great Burn be designated as wilderness.

I reside in Superior, Montana, in Mineral County, where I operate a hotel and small business. I was an outfitter in the area, operating Hole in the Wall, Bailey's Lodge, and Greenwood Cabins until my son took over a few years ago. I am intimately familiar with the area.

I have travelled the Great Burn area since 1933. In my life I have watched roads and development encroach on the area so that only a portion remains.

This area should be preserved, including the Kelly, Swamp, and Cache Creek drainages.

Please make my comments a part of the Senate record, as I was unable to attend the hearing on July 5, 1983, because of my business.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Bailey

Thomas A. Bailey
100 Mullan Road
Superior, MT 59872

July 11, 1983

Senators John Melcher and Max Baucus
Congressmen Pat Williams and Ron Marlenee

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-20-83

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for organizing the recent Montana hearings of the Senate Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee pertaining to Montana Wilderness System reccommendations, which you all participated in. This letter relates to those hearings and to Montana Wilderness proposals, and is intended as part of the official record of public comment to the Subcommittee.

I support the delegation's effort to develop a statewide legislative resolution to the issues of Wilderness System designations in Montana. Virtually no one with an interest in public land management wants to see another round of Forest Service administrative bungling on roadless lands designation. In order to avoid this, it now seems inevitable that so-called "sufficiency language" will be incorporated into any omnibus Wilderness bill. Some sort of "release" language will no doubt also be included in the bill to be drafted. These important concepts are deserving of some comment.

The testimony presented at the Montana hearings by timber, mining and grazing interests made it clear that these industries see great importance in resolving the existing land classification uncertainties through release and sufficiency language. This clarification of uncertainty is an important and desireable process, but one that must <u>not</u> occur at the expense of Montana's truly important and Wilderness-worthy roadless areas. Sufficiency language must be presented <u>only</u> in conjunction with important additions to Montana's Wilderness System lands. <u>National RARE II sufficiency bills should be strictly opposed, as they cannot hope to adequately address the individual state's Wilderness decisions.</u>

RARE II lands that are deemed to be not appropriate to designated Wilderness should be subject to "soft" release language in a Montana omnibus bill. This will give industrial and agricultural users fully as much certainty regarding future Wilderness designation as they can now have in regard to other Forest Service management decisions made under the auspices of the National Forest Management Act planning process. There is no need nor justification for permanent, "hard" release of any roadless areas, anywhere.

Before speaking to some specific Wilderness proposals under consideration, I would like to register my response to an old fallacy that was much in evidence at the Montana hearings, in particular the Missoula session which I attended. This is the naive and misleading concept of the Wilderness System as a "single use" land management classification. This erroneous idea was put forward at the Missoula hearing by a number of industry representatives who ought to know better. I have confidence that you, the members of Montana's delegation, have a more sophisticated understanding of the many functions and benefits of wilderness lands.

Montana's designated and de facto wilderness areas provide vital habitat for the State's famous fish and wildlife populations, protect watersheds that are of critical importance to municipal and agricultural water users, and generate important income in local communities (witness the Libby Chamber of Commerce's support for major new Wilderness designations in the Kootenai National Forest).

However, in order to fulfill these and the varied other functions of wilderness lands, primary emphasis must be placed on designating those areas that contribute important sets of resource protection values (such as the Bighole Watershed Protection proposals), and on those areas that are integral parts of existing designated Wilderness ecosystems and should have been included within previously established Wilderness boundaries.

"Alternative W" as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association and other

conservation groups has been developed on the basis of these important considerations, and I fully support the proposal as it has been put forward. There are no unimportant or unqualified areas proposed as Wilderness in Alternative W; I mention those that follow because of their critical importance and/or because of my personal knowledge of their attributes.

Great Burn. The Forest Service's own high ranking of this area's wilderness attributes, it's botanical and historical interest, and the low timber values available from it should suffice as reason to designate 90,000+ acres of new Wilderness here. Note also that the Missoula County and City Council's have submitted testimony strongly favoring the creation of a Great Burn Wilderness Area. This stance on the part of local governments reflects both an appreciation of the inherent value of wildlands and an understanding of the commercial value of wilderness users to local communities.

Selway-Bitterroot Additions. In the course of visiting these areas, particularly the South Fork Lolo Creek/Carleton Lakes area and Blodgett Canyon (which is easily the most majestic of the western Bitterroot glacial valleys), it has seemed obvious to me that these integral parts of the Selway-Bitterroot should have been included within the original Wilderness boundaries. Now is the time to correct these ommissions.

The Rocky Mountain Front. In terms of Wilderness ecosystem completion and wildlife habitat value, the Rocky Mountain Front additions to the Bob Marshall, as proposed in Alternative W, probably should receive top priority in a Montana wilderness bill. The Grizzly bear, mountain sheep and other wildlife that depend on these areas for seasonal habitat are a critical Montana resource and should be accorded the protection of Wilderness designation immediately. While the Deep Creek drainage has received the most notoriety because of the imminent threat to the area, all 225,000 acres proposed under Alternative W are a must.

Swan Front and Northern Swan Crest. The scenic and recreational arguements are obvious here. More importantly, with the health of the entire Flathead Lake ecosystem in jeopordy from a variety of developments, the protection of some of the western Swan Range becomes a critical need. Little timber of economic value is at stake on these units, while the integrity of the western Bob Marshall ecosystem and the recreational value of the Jewell Basin area argue strongly for Wilderness System designation.

Mission Mountains Addition. Again, an area that clearly should have been included within the original Mission Mountains Wilderness boundaries. The impact of the addition on the potential timber harvest in the area would be minor, while the inclusion of this contiguous area of de facto wilderness within the designated boundaries will help to maintain recreational and wildlife management options in one of the state's more heavily used Wilderness areas.

Scotchman's Peak, Cabinet Additions and Trout Creek. The northwestern corner of the state, climatically and biologically distinct from the rest of Montana, is is currently grossly under-represented in the Wilderness System by the poorly delineated and much-abused Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area.

The Scotchman's Peak and Trout Creek proposals have been delayed far too long already. The mineral potential of the Scotchman's Peak area's copper-silver deposits is well known. However, it is abundantly clear that mineral exploration has been concentrated in this area because of the possibility of Wilderness designation. The nature of the mineralization in the area virtually ensures that economically viable deposits will be confirmed elsewhere in the region as well, once exploration effort is directed away from the proposed Wilderness areas.

If the Grizzly bear population of the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem is to have any chance of survival, the Scotchman's Peaks and Cabinet Additions must be given Wilderness status.

I noted with considerable interest that the Libby Chamber of Commerce thinks highly enough of the local economic value of roadless recreation, including that associated with a thriving Trout Creek elk population, that the Chamber of Commerce expressed support for all three of these areas as proposed in Alternative W.

Big Hole River Watershed Proposal. The four units of this integrated proposal exemplify the constructive role that wilderness designation can play in Montana. Watershed protection for the agriculturally important,beleaguered Big Hole River system, combined with the big game wildlife value of the West Big Hole Mountains and West Pioneers, give the total proposal great resource conservation value beyond the recreational value these areas represent. The West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area is in particular need of Wilderness classification.

Crazy Mountains. The Crazies currently stand out as Montana's most absurd example of the current Administration's irresponsible land management policies. Wilderness designation is appropriate here if only to prevent the core of the range from being put on the auction block;beyond that, the abrupt and dramatic uplift of the Crazy Mountains deserves designation in it's own right.

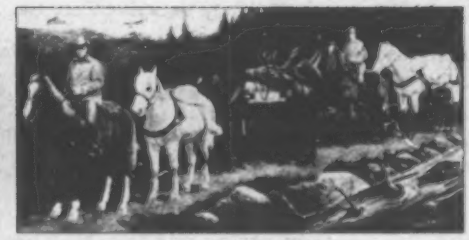
The comments above should not be interpreted as indicating a lack of interest on my part in other Alternative W proposals, such as the Absaroka-Beartooth Additions, the Flint Creek Range and Stony Mountain (Sapphire Range). The Absaroka-Beartooth Additions in particular are important to me and to others who have spent time in those ranges. Speaking to all of the deserving areas individually is beyond the scope of my comments, but I would like to reiterate an obvious point that frequently seems to be lost amid the rhetoric surrounding "wilderness lock-ups". That is, these and many other areas in Montana are now wilderness (small "w"), serving the multiple functions of wilderness to the benefit of Montana's residents, human and otherwise. The congressional action to be taken cannot create more wildlands. The only decision you can make is to determine how much more of this precious, diminishing resource is to be permanently lost. Please look, and listen, very hard before declaring that any of these presently wild areas shall not be granted legal protection within the Wilderness System.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Shapley

Mark D. Shapley
333 Fairview
Missoula, MT 59801

REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORDS



BIG GAME OUTFITTERS

Lyle J. "Tuffy" and Carolyn Smith

Box 742
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873
Ph. 406-827-4770 or 4777

June 30, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P. O. Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59807

Dear Senator Melcher:

I, too, would like to go on record in support of Alternate "7" status for the Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox area north of Thompson Falls, Mt. I am the wife of Lyle J. "Tuffy" Smith who, along with being a Montana Power employee for forty years, is also a licensed outfitter and rancher. Our ranch lies at the foot of Mt. Silcox and we enjoy it's beauty every day of the year.

My desire to maintain this area in an Alternate "7" status is a bit more emotional than that of my husband's. The reason for this perhaps, is because I am not a native of the mountains but was born and raised in northwestern Iowa and came west as a bride. My love for this area is very strong, primarily because I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity, through the years, to see it in it's natural, wild state.

Please, let's do everything possible to preserve this Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox area in an "Alternate 7" status, thus preventing any further encroachment by those who would rather exploit it for their own selfish interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Smith

Carolyn L. Smith

REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORDS

BIG GAME OUTFITTERS

Lyle J. "Tuffy" and Carolyn Smith

Box 742
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873
Ph. 406-827-4770 or 4777

June 29, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P. O. Box 8568
Missoula, Mt 59807

Dear Senator Melcher:

I would like to go on record in support of Alternate "W" status for the Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox area. This rather small scenic area of 24,591 acres lies on the north side of the beautiful Clark Fork valley adjacent to the town of Thompson Falls.

My first trip into this area was with my father in 1935. As a result of this trip the values of wilderness became firmly implanted in me even though I was just a wide-eyed 11 year old at the time. Since then I have hiked, hunted, fished and rode horseback through every part of it. Although roads and clearcuts have encroached on three sides, the heart of this wild area is still as nature made it.

In 1956, my wife, Carolyn, and I encountered a large female grizzly and her three yearling cubs while we were traveling horseback on trail #450 midway between Mt. Silcox and Cube Iron Peak. The story of this encounter was later written up in Outdoor Life with a cover picture of the incident. A year ago last November a fellow hunter and I observed a grizzly less than one mile from the spot where we encountered the others 25 years before. This grizzly was the same "Siamese cat" color that the other four were—proof that some still remain. Let's not lose them!

Some of the other wild animals we have observed in this area include moose, blackbear, whitetail and mule deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, lynx, marmots and marten. Two years ago we were extremely fortunate in getting to observe a large timber wolf for several minutes. This was near Marmot Peak.

The Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox area is unique in its geographical location. Elevation varies from 2,400 feet at Thompson Falls to over 7,000 feet at Mt. Headly. Approximately a dozen sky blue lakes are dispersed throughout its alpine basins. The deeper ones are well stocked with sizeable cutthroats. Breathtaking cliffs several hundred feet in height are numerous.

This area contains wilderness comparable with many of the more noted areas yet it features accessibility that most of them don't have. Although a week or more could easily be spent exploring the area, nearly every segment is accessible for one day trips. Hiking and fishing trips that entire families can enjoy for the cost of suitable footwear and a day pack. This feature isn't available in many of our larger areas like the Bob Marshal.

In closing may I impress on everyone involved how very important it is to act now in preserving this beautiful mountain area for our future generations.

Most sincerely,

Tuffy Smith

Lyle J. "Tuffy" Smith

July 16, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th St. North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Senator Melcher:

I was not able to attend and testify at any of your hearings on Montana Wildnerness proposals, but I want to offer these opinions about areas which I personally am familiar with:

* The Bob Marshall Wilderness Protection Proposal: I urge you to support the addition of 182,000 acres in five areas of the Rocky Mountain Front to the Bob Marshall Wilderness; if Glacier Park is the "Crown" of the Continent, then the Bob Marshall is a kind of head and neck supporting that crown.

* Gates of the Mountain Wilderness Addition, in the Helena National Forest: please add these 10,000 acres to a lovely part of the planet.

* Crazy Mountains, in the Gallatin National Forest: This is the one closest to my heart and closest to those of us who live in eastern and central Montana; if there is any mountain range that should be designated as wilderness and protected, it is the Crazies. They are extremely rugged mountains, yet they are quite near to and accessible to us "flatlanders" who desire wilderness experiences without having to travel further west to the Bob Marshall or elsewhere. The waters of the Crazies feed three major river systems in the state: the Missouri, the Yellowstone, and the river I live beside, the Musselshell. All wilderness areas function like great "recharging" systems—to keep Earth's Biosphere alive—and the Crazies function that way now for central Montana, providing clean water, helping to clean the air, providing refuge for wild animals. The "checkerboard" land ownership pattern in the Crazies has made any kind of designation—wilderness or not—a difficult matter. Including these 90,000 acres of the Crazies in the "Alternative W" program would be a giant step in the right direction.

Wilderness advocates frequently are criticized for "shutting out" industry, but in fact it is the quality of Montana's environment—its lovely, remote mountains and river breaks—that keeps certain "industries" vital; I am thinking of not only the tourist industry with its backpackers and outfitters and hunters and fishermen, but also of agriculture—for wilderness areas take grazing pressure off ranchlands, and in some cases they provide some grazing opportunities, on a lease basis, for ranchers.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Wood

Wilbur Wood/P.O. Box 12/Roundup MT 59072

GARY R. THOMAS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
RED LODGE, MONTANA 59068

TELEPHONE
(406) 446-1190

P. O. BOX 1726
113 NORTH BROADWAY

June 21, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Re: Hearings of the Public Land Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding 6 Million acres of roadless land in Montana's National Forest.

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please consider this letter as my offering of testimony to be considered regarding the fate of the 6 Million acres of roadless land remaining in Montana's 10 National Forests. I specifically request that this letter be made a part of the official hearing record.

I am writing not only as a member of the professional community in my area and in the State, but also as a member of the Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce. The value of roadless wilderness area to the commerce and trade in my part of Montana is difficult to over state. Red Lodge, of course, borders against the Custer National Forest. This forest offers a tremendous resource to our area in terms of tourist trade, hiking, fishing, hunting and the outfitting industry. It is most valuable to these industries that it remains as close as possible to its natural state.

For these and other reasons, that I am sure you are familiar with and that I will not go into in this letter, I am writing to urge you to adopt the proposed "Alternative W", which would protect 2.2 Million acres of the finest areas of wilderness in our State while releasing 3 Million acres to intensive development. I am also urging that you adopt the "Soft Release" of the remaining 3 Million acres of roadless areas not endorced for wilderness. "Soft Release" releases the roadless areas not designated as a wilderness by Congress from consideration as wilderness for the next fifteen years of the present National Forest planning cycle. I, for one, believe this is a legitimate and valid compromise and is a good balance of the competing interest involved in these very important decisions, decisions which we in Montana, along with our progeny, will be living with for a long long time to come.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment to you on these matters, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Gary R. Thomas

GRT/jd

Goosetown Racquet & Health Club

909 East Front
P.O. Box 1382

Ph. 406-563-7878
Anaconda, MT 59711

July 7, 1983

SENATORS: Mr. John Melcher
Mr. Pat Williams

SUBJECT: Wilderness Hearings
Anaconda, Montana

Dear Mr. Melcher & Mr. Williams,

I would like this letter to be part of the testimony of the wilderness hearings held in Anaconda on July 7, 1983.

I am participating in this hearing because I am concerned about the future of our area. I was born and raised in Anaconda, graduated from E.M.C. in 1971, became City-County Recreation Director in 1972 and invested my life savings in the Goosetown Racquet and Health Club in 1980. Since 1980, Anacondas future has grown dimmer each month.

I believe that the only way that our area can be saved and jobs provided for our Community is by saving and preserving the wilderness lands that we have left in our area. Anacondas future and the areas future lay in the current recreational wilderness values of our land. We currently have three Blue Ribbon trout streams that provide millons of dollars in revenue through use by fisherman, campers, tourists, duck hunters, bird hunters, etc. Watershed for the Clarks Fork, Rock Creek and Big Hole are provided for by the East & west Pioneers, West Big Hole, Flint Range and Saphires. If roads are put into these areas and timber is cut, the

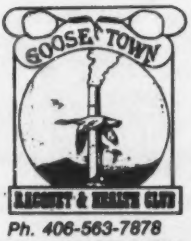
Goosetown Racquet & Health Club

909 East Front
P.O. Box 1392

Ph. 406-563-7878
Anaconda, MT 59711

recreational value of these lands will be lost. 17,000 out-of-state hunting permits are issued in Montana every hunting season. The majority of these hunters come into our areas to hunt elk, deer, moose, sheep and bear. These hunters provide millions of dollars of business to our area that we will lose if these areas area roaded, timber cut and cattle are put into the areas. Each year we lose more and more of our wild lands to developement. These areas are the last frontair for the lower 48 states. Elk are as valuable resourse as timber or minerals. If they were not we would not see 17,000 out-of-state lisences sold before hunting season starts. Backpacking into these areas also provides our local economeys with additional millions of dollars in revenue. More and more people are coming into Silver Bow, Granite, Beaverhead, Powell and Deer Lodge Counties each year because these areas are the way they are. If these areas are destroyed in any way our local economy will suffer. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, governament philosophy of the United States Forest Service must change. These areas have relatively poor timber values, road construction often costs more than the marketable timber value. We more often than not push over wildlife back futher and become more important each year. It is Congresses responsibility to protect these areas so that they can be used and reused by local people and by people throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Goosetown Racquet & Health Club



909 East Front
P.O. Box 1392

Ph. 406-563-7878
Anaconda, MT 59711

Our future lies in the wilderness values of our surrounding areas not in the developement of these areas. The better the wilderness qualities of these lands are kept intact the more hope for the future of our areas.

Sincerely,

Bill Hill

Bill Hill
President of Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness Association

Recreation Director
Owner Goosetown Racquet & Health Club

920 Breckenridge
Helena, MT 59601
July 27, 1983

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please enter these comments into the official hearing record of the Montana Wilderness Hearings.

Two areas in southwestern Montana, with which I am personally familar, deserve consideration for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. The Italian Peak Further Planning Area in the most southern part of Montana is the most remote area in the state that I have visited. The peaks are not visible from any paved road, and are difficult to sight even from the dirt access road. Yet the rugged mountains of this area reach as high as 11,000 feet. Alpine cirques abound along the Continental Divide which joins the Montana portion of this area with an equally wild area in Idaho which is also proposed for wilderness.

The Lionhead Proposed Wilderness is just to the west of Yellowstone National Park. Here only a stone's throw from one of the most heavily visited tourist attractions in the country, is a place where the backcountry traveler can find solitude. Also adjacent to an Idaho proposed wilderness, the high country of the Lionhead sends large amounts of moisture down both sides of the Continental Divide to supply two famous trout streams, the Madison and the Henry's Fork. Much of the Lionhead area is composed of highly unstable soils and sediment. The famous Madison Slide lies just on the north edge of the area. These geologic conditions make any form of development in the Lionhead both undesirable and dangerous. The best and highest use of the Lionhead is watershed protection for the region's fisheries and as a place of refuge for the beleagured wildlife of the area. With the extensive development presently taking place around West Yellowstone and with the ever increasing possibility of Ski Yellowstone being built, it becomes more important than ever to preserve the remaining wildlife habitat on the west side of the Park.

Senator Melcher, I urge you to include the Italian Peaks and the Lionhead in your statewide wilderness bill. In addition, I also urge your support for conservationists' "Alternative W." Regenomics has managed to severely damage Montana's mining and timber industry but the state's tourist industry continues to thrive. Only the wilderness areas of California and Colorado receive more visitors than do those of Montana. Obviously, many of these visitors must be out of state tourists. By maintaining our undeveloped wildlands as wilderness, we can help to assure the future economic well being of Montana.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Rowe

Rosemary Rowe

Dear Senator John Melcher June 26, 1983

It is such a frustrating feeling of helplessness to be watching more & more of what little the U.S. has left of it's precious, irreplaceable wilderness areas disapear. It is important that we act right now to preserve as much of our wild lands as we possibly can. Already too much of our natural heritage & natural resources have been lost through very short-sighted actions. There is more to life on earth than using things up right now because we must think ahead for all the future generations to come so that they might have the same chances to enjoy what we have taken for granted... wildlife, natural rivers, streams, lakes, forests, plants indiginous to their areas. We all need the chance to be able to have these aspects of our world in their natural state without being changed & cluttered up with mans hampering. "Without wildlands, a society has no touchstone with which to measure its progress. Without the spiritual renewal that a wildland personally givesso many, we would become a hopeless shambles- casualties of our modern "civilized" world". Where in the world would our great nation be if we had not had great thinkers & conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt who saved Yellowstone Park for us & John Muir who spent most of his life fighting to preserve & to create at least 6 major parks & monments & many wilderness areas. Many people of great vision & much hard work have fought the battle against greed & over developement of such great places of wonder & beauty as our National Parks which include our presently endangered Glacier Park, & such others as Olympic, Crater Lake, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Bryce. Thank God someone before our time set these places aside for protection for the rest of mankind to enrich their lives with. Wilderness areas as well as national parks have provided myself & so many others with some of the best hours spent & memories of all the wondrous beauties of nature & exciting moments experienced when watching & photographing wild animals & plants & scenes firsthand in these preserved areas. These wild places provide people with a personal fullfillment & understanding of individuality. Please help protect what we still have left in Northwest Montana by letting our congressmen so that our wild places will not be sold out, ruined, & overcrowded like other states have done.

Since the Forest Service predicts an extreme shortage of wilderness & primitive lands in the future, here now is a chance to use foresight & do things right by designating the Swan Crest Range along with the North End of the North Fork, & a few parcels of the Cabinet as wilderness areas. Protect these places now & for the future from motorized vehicles, noise & air pollution, overcrowding & overuse, timber sell-off, & reduction of vegetation, destruction of wildlife & their habitats & migration patterns & breeding, & oil & gas leasing & drilling. Help mankind & wildlife today by protecting some special places for them both to remain & have access to an untouched area where they will have room to be away from other people & their machines.

Please enter this letter in the official hearing record for 2.2 million acres of wilderness to be protected ("Alternative W") & the other 3 million acres to be used as "SOFT Release" lands.

Sincerely,
Diane Caughey - professional photographer & mother
Diane Caughey

Jack Caughey - investment advisor — motel owner & commercial property owner & developer

July 7, 1993

Dear Sir,

I will be unable to attend the Wilderness hearing at Anaconda July 7. I will send this written comment with a request to have it included in the official hearing record.

First I support "alternative W" as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association. Those areas listed by the National Forest that I am well acquainted with are the Flint Creek Range in the Deer Lodge National Forest, N. Baldy in the Helena National Forest, and the East and West Pioneers in the Beaverhead National Forest. I know the other areas I haven't listed are no less valuable.

The timber in those areas is often marginal and for what good timber is left is truly not worth the trade off of scenic beauty, hunting, and fishing. It is no doubt that in the years to come these areas will increase in value to other generations for the scenic and recreational value.

I also support "soft release" of the remaining 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness ... mainly because it seems as if there is no choice. I feel all these lands should be wilderness for I know what happens after they are logged off.

These are my views.

Thank you,

Errol Boucke

Errol D. Beucke
P.O Box 1487
Anaconda, Montana
59711

July 14, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
SH 706
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am writing to ask you to support the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area. The Great Burn area received one of the highest wilderness quality ratings in the nation in the Forest Service's RARE II report, and the agency recommended it for "instant" wilderness.

Before my retirement, I worked for many years for the Forest Service on the Superior Ranger District. I worked on trail maintenance, often within the boundaries of the proposed Great Burn wilderness. I personally sighted grizzly bear in the area, and I know this animal needs the protected habitat that only wilderness status can provide.

The great fire of 1910 left a scar that is still visible in the Great Burn, and the area is a unique example of how a forest comes back after a major fire. Additionally, that fire left several open areas that are rare in heavily-forested western Montana.

The timber resource in the Great Burn is minimal, and the area does not have the potential to be highly productive.

After my retirement, I moved from Mineral County to the Bitterroot Valley, but I still guide hunting parties into the Great Burn, and I make several personal trips to the area each year.

The Cache Creek, Kelly Creek and Swamp Creek drainages are an integral part of the Great Burn area, and should be included in wilderness designation.

I could not attend the hearing on July 5th, but I hope you will add this letter to the public comment you received.

Sincerely,

Tom Vann
2710 North Birch Creek
Corvallis, MT 59828

MINERAL COUNTY ABSTRACT & TITLE COMPANY
P. O. BOX 839
SUPERIOR, MONTANA 59872-0839

(406) 822-3371

KATHLEEN S. HENSON, MANAGER

July 12, 1983

Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I would like to recommend the Great Burn area for wilderness designation, including Cache Creek, Swamp Creek and Kelly Creek.

As a resident of Mineral County, Montana, I have had many opportunities to enjoy the mountains, lakes and streams in the area known as the "Great Burn". The recreational potential is outstanding and varied. Trail rides, backpacking, and overnight camping and fishing trips have led me deep into this beautiful wilderness area. Through these experiences, I have come to appreciate the pristine nature of the Great Burn as opposed to the roaded area on it's fringes.

The timber is very sparce in the regions I have traveled. Indeed, a study done by the Forest Service concludes that the Great Burn does not contain a high quality timber resource.

The wildlife and fish present in the area are numerous. Montana and Idaho Rare II supplements list fifteen different species present in the area, which ranks it in the top ten percentile for wilderness areas.

This region contains one of the few totally primitive and natural areas remaining in this country. For beauty and solitude, the Great Burn is unsurpassed and should remain in it's present state not only for us to enjoy today, but for our children and our children's children in the years to come.

Please include these comments in the official record as I was unable to attend the July 5th meeting.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen S. Henson

Kathleen S. Henson

Janene M. Driscoll
P. O. Box 851
Superior, Montana 59872

July 13, 1983

Honorable John Melcher
253 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am a resident of Mineral County, Montana and teach in the Superior school system. I am writing to support the Forest Service recommended wilderness boundaries for the entire Great Burn area, including the portions in Montana which were deleted from the original RARE I recommendations. The Montana deletions are unacceptable because they were done without appropriate analysis. The exclusions are not warranted because adequate data to indicate the presence of valuable minerals has not been gathered.

The area known as the "Great Burn Area" was assigned one of the highest quality index ratings given to any area in the nation of the RARE I Study. This fact alone is evidence that the area <u>needs</u> to be designated a wilderness area.

The Great Burn area, which includes a portion of the Montana-Idaho State Line Trail, contains some very special terrain, an abundance of wildlife, a variety of plants and flowers, and endless opportunities for solitude. It is unique because of the effects of the Fire of 1910. The terrain has been permanently altered -- a new eco-system formed, influenced by the fire.

I invite you, and the others who will eventually decide the future of the area to put on a backpack and experience the area before you make your decision.

Hike into Heart Lake (scan the cliffs -- maybe you'll see a bald eagle soaring), climb the ridge and on past Pearl, Dalton and Trio Lakes. Look closely at those dead trees. Ghosts of a fire 73 years ago. Look at the rocky cliffs by Straight Lake and Siamese Lakes. If you go now, you'll run into lots of snow -- snow with a few boot-prints -- but mainly elk and deer prints. Admire the sub-alpine tundra: terrain that is rarely found in North America.

When you get to Fish Lake, take time to notice the signatures in the mud from last season's motorcycles. Look at the litter, the empty fuel cans, beer cans, etc. and hopefully you'll understand how important it is for <u>you</u> to preserve the wilderness.

As you continue you'll go past a small, un-named lake, then up a ridge and then come upon one of the most magnificent views imaginable. Sit for a moment (or an hour) near Admiral Peak and look at the views. Digest the solitude. Look at the Mission Mountains to the east, the seemingly endless mountain ranges to the south and the tall mountains into Idaho to the west. Mountains uninterrupted by scars of man or "progress". No roads, no clearcuts, no noises that don't occur naturally. It's breathtaking! And it needs to be preserved. Preserved for me, for you, and for the endless generations which will come after us. If you don't preserve it now, one of the truly magnificent wilderness areas will be lost forever.

Wilderness areas cannot be created -- only preserved.

Thank you for your help in making this special part of Montana a Wilderness Area.

Please make my comments a part of the record, as I was unable to testify at the hearing on July 5th.

Sincerely,

Janene M Driscoll

Janene M. Driscoll

July 21, 1983

Hon. John Melcher
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing to encourage your support of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area in western Montana. I live with my family in Superior, Montana, where I am employed as a game warden by the Montana Department of Fish and Game.

I am intimately familiar with the Great Burn area, having entered it many times as part of my work, and for personal recreation. I have personally made several sightings of grizzly bear and wolves in the Great Burn, and I feel that both of these animals greatly need the protection that would be afforded by wilderness designation.

The Great Burn is an unspoiled, rugged area, high in wilderness attributes, as recognized by the Forest Service in its RARE II study, which recommended it for instant wilderness. Fishing and big-game hunting in the Great Burn are excellent, and provide a boon to the Mineral County economy.

I believe that the Cache Creek, Kelly Creek and Swamp Creek drainages are an integral part of the Great Burn area, and should be included in wilderness designation.

I would appreciate it if you would include this letter in the public comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gary Chambers

Gary Chambers
Route 1, Box 3050
Superior, MT 59872

July 11, 1983

Hon. John Melcher
United States Senate
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing to recommend the Great Burn be designated a wilderness.

I reside in Superior, Montana, in Mineral County where I operate a hotel and small business. I was an outfitter in the area, operating Hole in the Wall, Baileys Lodge, and Greenwood Cabins until my son took over a few years ago. I am intimately familiar with the area.

I have travelled the Great Burn area since 1933. In my life I have watched roads and development encroach on the area so that only a portion remains.

This area should be preserved, including the Kelly, Swamp, and Cache Creek drainages.

Please make my comments a part of the Senate record, as I was unable to attend the hearing on July 5, 1983, because of my business.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Bailey

Thomas A. Bailey
100 Mullan Road
Superior, MT 59872

DOUGLAS R. AUSTIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P. O. BOX 297
SUPERIOR, MONTANA 59872
TELEPHONE 406 - 822-4771

July 12,1983

Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Great Burn Proposed Wilderness

Dear Senator Melcher:

I was unable to attend your committee hearing in Missoula on July 5. If possible, I would request that this letter be entered into the record.

I am a resident of Mineral County, and I practice law in both Mineral and Missoula Counties. I have done so for eight years. Prior to that, I worked as a logger off and on for seven years. Much of my logging experience occurred in the Fish Creek drainage in general, including the area around Surveyor Lake. Surveyor Lake was included in the original Forest Service wilderness recommendation for the Great Burn area, but was later deleted.

I have also hiked, fished and camped in most of the Great Burn area on the Montana side, and in some of the Idaho side. I have taken visitors from out of state to this area.

I would like to recommend in the strongest terms possible that the whole Great Burn area, as originally recommended by the Forest service, be classified as wilderness.

The timber potential is minimul and the mineral potential is unproven. Most importantly, the area is ideal for wilderness. The lakes, streams, terrain and wildlife are pristine and create a peace that is difficult to describe. I have also spent time in the Bob Marshall and the Bitterroot-Selway wildernesses. In my opinion, the Great Burn equals or exceeds these others in wilderness potential.

I am quite disturbed that the lower Cache Creek-Irish Basin area has been excluded from the Forest Service recommendation. This is an integral part of the ecosystem and trail system. It would be a great loss if this area was not included.

I believe it would also be unfortunate to exclude Surveyor Lake. I believe this is the only Alpine Lake which the Forest Service has excluded.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Very truly yours,

Douglas R. Austin

Douglas R. Austin

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Pat Williams
Governor Schwinden
Great Burn Study Group
Judge John Henson

523 Breckenridge #B
Helena, Montana 59601

July 14, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please include this letter in the wilderness hearing record. I understand that record is to be open until August 1, 1983. Due to the three minute time constrant at hearings here in Montana, my oral testimony was mainly directed at specific areas in the Lolo and Helena National Forests that I wished to see designated as wilderness. This letter will serve to express my more general ideas about the management of Montana's roadless areas.

Oil and gas exploration, mining, timber harvesting, and wilderness are the four major "competitors" for Montana's roadless areas. Three of the four, oil and gas exploration, mining and timber harvesting, historically prove to be boom and bust industries, never really adding to the stability of Montana's economy. As well, all three industries are largly controlled by out of state corporations, who have no over-whelming concern for the well-being of Montana, and all three have inflicted damage to Montana's environment. For example:

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION: While early oil and gas discoveries during the 1920's through 1950 brought needed energy to early Montana residents, more recent exploration and drilling have created lifestyle disruption in many Montana communities. For instance, the exploration operation on top of Hogback Mountain near Helena caused a one mill fluctuation in the local mill levy over a two year period, leaving local government in a quandary as to its economic stability. In other areas of the state, the brief influx

of transient oil industry employees, (mostly people from out of Montana), disrupted and changed communities over night, resulting in increased prices of merchandise and service goods for local residents. This exploration has resulted in needless miles of new roads, disruption of wildlife security and seclusion, and water quality problems. Moreover, these corporate oil companies, who so adamantly insist on exploring and testing in Montana's roadless wild country, have yet to prove the existence of significant oil and gas deposits in the other mountainous areas of Montana, where they have done excessive testing. Surely this alone, is reason enough to restrict their entry into Montana's most vulnerable areas - our few roadless acres.

MINING: From the early placer mine operations through the war of the copper kings, until today's sad sad situation in Butte and Anaconda, the mining industry in Montana has exhibited an economic boom and bust cycle surpassed by no other industry. Time and time again corporate giants who own operations in Montana have turned their backs on Montana laborers and left them and their communities in economic disaster, and their environments devastated. The mining industry of today is not much more environmentally concerned then it has been throughout its entire Montana history. This is demonstrated by the recent water quality problems associated with the GoldSil mine cyanide contamination of Silver Creek near Marysville in 1980, recent heavy metal air and water pollution at the ASARCO mine near Troy, Montana, potential lead contamination at East Helena from the ASARCO smelter, water quality problems associated with the Berkeley Pit in Butte, and other examples. As well, one does not see the mining industry taking a lead in the clean-up of abandoned mines; rather these mining remanents are now costing the tax payers millions of dollars to clean-up. Can Montana afford to allow an industry with this type of record, access into her most vulnerable and pristine areas - our few remaining roadless acres? I think not.

TIMBER HARVESTING: The economic hardtimes facing the wood products industry today and in the future, cannot be attributed to the few acres taken out of the timber base for wilderness, as the out of state corporations running this industry would have one believe. The few areas proposed for wilderness are generally in steep alpine country, with very marginal timber stands. Yet, these same areas are vital wildlife security habitat, and exceptional recreational regions. The true causes of the economic hardships facing the timber industry, lie with its illogical expansion during the rape and clear-cutting years of the mid 1960's through the mid 1970's, the federal government's encouragement of these practices, and the current administration's economic policies. Montana and the federal government cannot continue to support an expanding Montana timber industry either through large government subsidies, or through the loss of our few roadless acres.

There are over 94 million acres of land in Montana. With the addition of the wilderness areas proposed in "Alternative W", the total wilderness acreage would be less than 5.5% of the total acreage of Montana. When one considers the tourism dollars that come to Montana from recreational users of wilderness, from people who just come to view the unspoiled grandeur they cannot find anywhere else but Alaska, and from the increasing numbers of "clean" industries that are attracted to Montana communities near wilderness areas, that 5.5% of Montana's land may very well be the most valuable in terms of money to Montana. To lose this valuable resource to extraction industries would be to lose its potential forever. It is time for Montana to start promoting the promising industry of tourism, and encouraging other "clean" industries to move to Montana. Industries like the five- state health insurance agency, and the national commodities brokerage firm which have been attracted to the community of Bigfork because of the beautiful surroundings of the Swan Front. These "clean" industries will not only stabilize our economic growth, but will maintain and enhance the environment of our state for all Montanans, and for the abundant wildlife with whom we share our home. Our roadless areas - maintained as wilderness - are a vital key to attracting these "clean" industries. I ask the Montana Congressional Delegation to support "Alternative W", and work to keep Montana's few remaining roadless areas, roadless. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Christine Deveny

Ms. Christine Deveny

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MISSOULA, RAVALLI, LAKE,
SANDERS AND MINERAL

STATE OF MONTANA

DEPARTMENT 4
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MISSOULA, MT 59802

JUL 18 PM 5 10

DOUGLAS G. HARKIN
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

July 14, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
United States Senate
SH 706
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

As an elected public official living in Missoula, Montana, a significant portion of my compensation is the quality of life in this area. A major contribution to that quality of life is the proximity of wilderness and wild areas in western Montana. It is for that reason that I urge your support of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area.

I am an active horseman and big-game hunter, and those interests have resulted in trips into the area proposed for wilderness status. I note that the Forest Service recommended the Great Burn for "instant" wilderness status in its RARE II report, a recommendation with which I strongly agree. I have found the area to be high in wilderness attributes -- it is undeveloped, provides excellent habitat for big game and potential habitat for endangered and threatened species, and is exceptionally beautiful.

The limited timber resource in the Great Burn indicates that wilderness designation would be a minimal economic hardship on western Montana, one that would be more than offset by the boon to back-country guiding operations, and other tourism-related businesses.

I would appreciate your giving my comments your consideration in the upcoming action on the Great Burn area.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Harkin

DOUGLAS G. HARKIN

MINERAL COUNTY ABSTRACT & TITLE COMPANY
P. O. BOX 839
SUPERIOR, MONTANA 59872-0839

(406) 822-3371

KATHLEEN S. HENSON, MANAGER

July 12, 1983

Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
5327 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I would like to recommend the Great Burn area for wilderness designation, including Cache Creek, Swamp Creek and Kelly Creek.

As a resident of Mineral County, Montana, I have had many opportunities to enjoy the mountains, lakes and streams in the area known as the "Great Burn". The recreational potential is outstanding and varied. Trail rides, backpacking, and overnight camping and fishing trips have led me deep into this beautiful wilderness area. Through these experiences, I have come to appreciate the pristine nature of the Great Burn as opposed to the roaded area on it's fringes.

The timber is very sparce in the regions I have traveled. Indeed, a study done by the Forest Service concludes that the Great Burn does not contain a high quality timber resource.

The wildlife and fish present in the area are numerous. Montana and Idaho Rare II supplements list 15 different species present in the area, which ranks it in the top ten percentile for wilderness areas.

This region contains one of the few totally primitive and natural areas remaining in this country. For beauty and solitude, the Great Burn is unsurpassed and should remain in it's present state not only for us to enjoy today, but for our children and our children's children in the years to come.

Please include these comments in the official record as I was unable to attend the July 5th meeting.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen S. Henson

Kathleen S. Henson

July 11, 1983

Hon. Max Baucus
United States Senate
5327 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am employed by Diamond International in Superior, Montana. Because of that, I know how important the mill is here, but I'm writing to recommend the Great Burn area to you for wilderness status.

There is very little timber in this area. My family and I have enjoyed it for years on foot and on horseback. It contains many mountain lakes, which provide good fishing, and the hunting for big game is excellent.

It is a very rugged, scenic area, and I highly recommend it to you. I was unable to attend the hearing in Missoula on July 5, 1983, because of my job, but I wanted to make these comments to you and to the other senators.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Harmon

Richard Harmon
P. O. Box 43
Superior, MT 59872

Diane Renee' Kratka
P.O. Box 3192
Bozeman, Montana
59715

July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

Testimony presented to Delegation, July 7, 1983
Anaconda, Monatana
Wilderness Legislation Public Hearing

Good Morning - Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and for your work toward resolving this issue.

My name is Renee' Kratka, of Bozeman, and I speak as an interested citizen.

The issues of Wilderness designation, and of RARE II are complicated. However, it is important for us to cooperate, in order to move forward and resolve this question.

Having had training as a forester, I appreciate the need to harvest certain resources, as well as the economy that can depend on these activities. However, biological and economic common sense must be followed. The Gallatin Forest,in particular, contains semi-arid slopes, with relatively low timber production, with deficit situations. To continue to harvest greater amounts of timber and to build more roads, while losing tax dollars, is not good business. Ecologically, wilderness areas add quality to lands used for harvest, by maintaining the nature of the ecosystem. In order to insure long term resource harvest, lands and their productivity should be studied and evaluated periodically. "Soft release" language, for areas released from wilderness designation, would provide for this.

The Gallatin Forest has been rated as the highest recreational use area in Region I. Real profit is derived from this rich area, in dollars, and in the basic quality of life.

It is crucial to preserve large areas, in Wilderness, in order to maintain the system, wildlife, and the wild character of this area. These qualities draw the large number of visitors that provide the economic base for many Montana areas. If these are destroyed, or deminished, these visitors will go elsewhere.

Montana offers many resources, some of which, with care, can be used and perpetuated. But, in size and quality, our greatest resource are the wild areas.

Please allow these to be utilized, and protected, through sound legislation. "Alternative W" is a good compromise, and will release more acreage than would be put aside. Resource utilization, preservation, and continuation of the quality of our forests will be well served.

27-608 O - 84 - 63

Box 7666
Missoula MT 59807

15 July 1983

1983 JUL 22 AM 10:06

Sen. John Melcher
Senate Office Bldg
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Melcher:

I was unable to attend the recent hearings on the fate of the Bob Marshall. I would appreciate your making my comments part of the official record.

We are all aware of the importance of the approaching decision re: possible expansion of The Bob. I want to urge in the strongest possible terms that all 400,000 acreas porposed as boundary additions to The Wildetness Area be so included. The areas include the Swan Front, Teton River High Peaks, Monture Creek, Renshaw Mtn, Falls Creek-Silver King, Chateau Mtn and Deep Creek.

Ma ny of these areas were recommended for wilder ness during Rare II, all are essential wildlife habitat, and all are organic parts of the Bob. This last point would be obvious to anyone who travelled at all in the area, but is especially evident to those of us who love the 'crown jewel' of the Wilderness System.

We must do everything possible to protect this marvelous gift to all of us here now and as well as all generations to follow. It always seems greedy to insist on all of a proposal, as if some 'sane' voice could alw,ys counsel 'compromise.' On actual fact, we have given up sh much of what was once rare and beautiful of our state, it is way past time to sall a halt. The Bob needs to be left alone, along with its prize fauna and flora. It certainly serves us well as in-state and tourist attraction. Please draw the line and vote for inclusion of all 400,000 acreas which the Bob Marshall Alliance proposal describes.

This is one thing you should all be able to agree on, as it defines a Montana responsibility. Can you not all four of you agree on this one thing? For us all.

respectfully,

Michael Kreisberg

cc:Sen. Baucus; Congr. Williams; Congr. Marlenee

1983 JUL July 10 1983

Senate Energy and Rewoulce Committee
Washington D.C 20510

We would like this entered as testimony in the records of the hearing on RARE 11 findings.
We feel the time is long overdue to act to protect Montana lands. We have hiked in almost all the areas in Montana and particularly the Bob Marshall, Swan Range, Monture Creek and Selway Bitterroot areas. We feel it would be a great injustice to humanity to allow anything to change these areas.
There are many arguments wecould give in favor of wilderness,but feel it is enough to say we agree with the statements submitted by theGreat Falls Nature and Wildlands and the Wilderness association.

Therefore we support alternative W and Soft Release.

Sincerely.

Jane Lancaster

Wm L. Lancaster

1983 JUL 14 PM 3:22

July 10, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing to respectfully request that Ward and Downing mountains facing Hamilton be permanently placed in RARE II.

This is a valuable, accessible resource to the Bitter Root Valley.

Sincerely,

George G. Lay

George G. Lay
524 So. 2nd St.
Hamilton, Mt. 59840

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Rep. Pat. Williams

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
REALTOR®

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
910 HELENA AVENUE
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
TELEPHONE:
(406) 443-4032

July 21, 1983

Sen. Max Baucus
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus,

The wilderness issue has been with us long enough. The Forest Service has spent the last 10 years studying this and we believe it is time to get on with the program. These lands that they identified as non-wilderness should be released immediately for multiple use.

Polls have indicated that 75% of the people in Montana believe there is enough wilderness. We would hope that the feelings of the majority would prevail.

We would be very pleased if this issue could be settled and allow the orderly development of Montana's natural resources and put Montana people back on the payrolls.

Sincerely,

Terrence D. Carmody
Executive Vice President

TDC/ts

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3106 Floral Blvd
Butte, Montana 59701
July 15, 1983

The Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

1983 JUL 22 AM 10 31

Dear John:

Sorry I missed the opportunity to testify at one or all of the July 5,7,9 Montana hearings on RARE II.

I appreciate the delegation's efforts to resolve the RARE II wilderness issue and avoid a RARE III, which nobody (except for certain over-polarized entities) wants.

As you may know, I am a member of the Governor's Ad Hoc Forest Resources Committee. As a member I attempt to follow a reasonable approach, but have to admit that the wilderness advocates are a bit overwhelming. Now that I'm a retired geologist, I don't make news, but think I can say more and be more objective.

My inclination is to support the Forest Service recommendations. I had input in their process, and often wonder why some of my colleagues who had equal input cannot accept the results.

I express the hope that we can move with dispatch to eliminate a RARE III. My statement on most of the land areas involved is attached or being forwarded by Evan Barrett. Also, I'm attatching a copy of an old (1978) news release on sequential and simultaneous multiple land use. I wish now that I had sent copies to Congress back in 1978. The idea had some practicality then, maybe it does now.

Best Regards and Good Luck!

Sincerely,

S. L. "Sid" Groff
(Retired Geologist?)

Enclosure

Copy to Sen. Max Baucus
Rep. Ron Marlenee
Rep. Pat Williams

STATEMENT: Montana RARE II Wilderness

by

Dr. S. L. "Sid" Groff
3106 Floral Blvd.
Butte, Montana 59701

My comments are based on 26 years of service with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, including 11 years as State Geologist and Director.

There is always merit in seeking a middle ground agreement and this was my policy for my years as State Geologist. Agreements were and are difficult to achieve because of polarized attitudes. Personally, I have found that the U.S. Forest Service has done very creditable work and am inclined to support their findings and recommendations for the most part.

Yet, I am well aware that some well organized groups will push for their specific land classification desires well in excess of any demonstrated need, but pushed for with the objective of getting all they can.

Relative to specifics, I particularly disfavor Wilderness classification for several areas on the basis of mineral potential, related geological indicators or, complicated land use situations. These areas are listed herein by National Forests as shown on the RARE II Final Environmental Statement, Northern Region (1979).

Kootenai National Forest

Scotchman Peak (1-662)

Boundary adjustments are necessary. The private sector has located stratabound copper-silver occurrences of probable commercial nature in the NE part of the area. Also, according to U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1467, other commercial deposits may occur in the SE part.

It may be noted that the economics of the U.S. Copper Industry are not bright. A copper deposit with silver offers a much better economic situation, and NW Montana seems to be an area of high promise.

Boundary adjustments might best be established by agreements between the mineral, timber, and wilderness interests. There should be recognition of U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1467. I, personally, believe it would be a serious error to include areas or tracts of potentially producible minerals in wilderness category.

McKay Creek (1-676)

In the SW Cabinent area, this tract is on line and proximate to copper-silver deposits. Some exploration has been completed by the private sector and there is a probability of a commercial deposit. I would strongly recommend release of the tract so that exploration and inventory can proceed.

McGregor/Thompson (L1LAQ)

Recommend release from wilderness consideration. Does not appear to be suitable for wilderness, has potential for oil and gas, and should be explored and inventoried.

General Comment-Kootenai National Forest

My comments relate to minerals and geology, but I am aware that the Kootenai has the best timber of any forest in Montana. Timber is the leading industry and many jobs depend on that industry. What is generally not known is that the Cabinet-Scotchman Peak area has the leading silver producing and silver reserves in the U.S.A. Copper could not be produced without the silver content.

I am inclined to question the validity of wilderness classification for most of the areas immediately N of the Clark Fork. Not because I oppose wilderness, but because I believe the Forest Service can manage such areas in the best interests of conservation and public needs.

Flathead National Forest

NE Whitefish Range (Mt. Hofty, 1-481; Tuchuck, 1-482; Thompson-Seton, 1-483).

These areas are all timbered, and have Paleozoic rocks at (or relatively near) the surface. I know of no coal deposits, but there is potential for oil and gas. I believe that grizzly bears and other animals can coexist with oil and gas exploration and possible development. I further believe that the Forest Service can effectively manage for reasonable multiple use. We will never know whether or not oil and gas or other minerals are present until reasonable mineral resource exploration and inventory is completed.

Mission Mountain Additions (1-500 through 1-506)

These are all small and considered unnecessary. Recommend release from consideration as wilderness additions.

Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan (1-485)

This is a complex situation. The area is large and likely involves land exchanges. Mineral potential is largely unknown, except as an easterly part of the overthrust zone with possible oil and gas potential at depth. My best thought is to follow the Forest Service recommendation for nonwilderness in the Swan-Flathead Range area.

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Additions E of Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat (1-485, 1-721, etc.)

Such areas, regardless of whether recommended or not, should be released from wilderness consideration. The whole area or region along, adjacent to, and W of the Rocky Mountain Front has oil and gas potential. I recall that I argued that the Great Bear should be tested and was working with ERDA to get it tested with deep drilling. All to no avail, however, and the wilderness was created. No sour grapes, but we must be careful not to lock up a vital resource.

Little Belt Mountains: All areas

Recommend acceptance of Forest Service recommendations of no wilderness for all designated RARE II areas. The Congressionally Designated Study Area (1-734) should be subject to boundary adjustments by agreement with the private sector and wilderness adherents.

Highwood Mountains (1-737, -738)

Not suited to wilderness.

Big Snowy Range (1-739)

This Congressionally Designated Study Area is of some concern. Wilderness features are only near and at the Range crest. Suggest extensive boundary adjustment or release to Forest Service multipurpose management.

Castle Mountains (1-743)

Widely used with roads and mines. Recommend release.

Helena National Forest

Camas Creek (1-616)

This area includes Boulder Baldy Mountain. There is gold potential in virtually every drainage. Igneous rocks have intruded the thick Newlan Limestone to produce a metamorphic complex. May well be, and I suspect it is, the source of placer gold for part of Confederate Gulch, Camas Creek, and Benton Gulch. Suggest release from wilderness consideration. Further geologic studies are advisable.

Mt. Baldy (1-617)

Just south of Camas Creek (1-616) the area does not appear to have equivalent mineral potential, but has essentially the same geology. Is widely used by sportsmen and has been well managed by the Forest Service. I recommend release and continued multiuse management.

Areas NW of Helena (1-601,-602,-603,-604,-605,-606)

All of these are essentially in a region of past gold and silver production. Some mining continues. New potential deposits are under investigation. Recommend release.

Areas SW of Helena (1-607,-608)

Both areas have mining production history and restudy of old properties is ongoing. Recommend release.

Deerlodge National Forest

Electric Peak (1-609)

There are mineral potentials, old properties, and mining interests. I note that wilderness adherents cite the area needs protection as important big game security area with elk and grizzly potential. The presence of grizzly bears is questioned. I fail to see need for wilderness to protect elk. Forest Service and Fish and Game can agree on game management. Recommend release.

Area E of Butte (1-432,-433,-434)

These areas widely used for summer stock grazing. There is much access by roads and trails, and many mining prospects, claims, and some current activity. Not wilderness country. Recommend release.

Area S of Butte (1-430,-431)

Highland Mountains. Sort of a play area for citizens of Butte. Source of part of city water supply. Well managed by Forest Service. No need for Wilderness designation.

N Tobacco Root Mountains (1013)

Established as further planning area. Has varied mineral potential, to include possible industrial minerals, such as kyanite, andalusite, etc. Several old prospects. Road access to some alpine lakes. If further study indicates wilderness, then boundary adjustments necessary and limited to higher alpine areas.

Elkhorn Mountains (1-620)

This is a controversial area between Helena, Townsend, and Boulder. Does have old prospects and mines and some new mineral potential (gold). Boundary should be adjusted for a smaller area if wilderness designation is seriously considered. Probable best solution is release, as questions on air quality may come up and adversely affect the operations of the already troubled smelter at East Helena.

Flint-Creek Range (1-428,-429)

U.S. Geological Survey-Bureau of Mines report not conclusive. Drill evaluation needed. Bordered by historical mineral production. Approximately one billion dollars of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc (at current prices) produced from south part of Range N of Georgetown and Silver Lakes. Similar deposits may well occur at depth in proposed wilderness. Also, has a belt of tungsten (scheelite) in upper Paleozoic Amsden Limestone. Very likely wilderness is not the practical answer for the Flint Creeks. Careful multipurpose management would seem more fitting.

Bitterroot National Forest

Bitterroot E Front (1-061,-062,-063,-064)

From a mineral view I have no objection to wilderness designation. However, some of these areas have commercial timber and the timber industry should comment.

West Fork of Bitterroot (1-845, 1-941)

Meadow Creek (1-845) mineral potential largely unknown. If seriously considered for wilderness, the S boundary should be adjusted N. Problem here is lack of knowledge. I would oppose wilderness designation for (1-941) as the SW corner of the West Fork--there is mineral potential, but again I'm faced with a lack of knowledge. It is hoped that the private sector has information to support release and return this area to multiple use management.

Stony Mountain (L1-BAD)

There is a belt or area of contact metamorphism in this area which contains vermiculite. Reliable exploration for minerals in the Sapphire Mountains is largely lacking. This, again, adds up to a lack of knowledge. More careful multipurpose management should provide adequate protection for the thousand (?) elk reportedly inhabiting this area. Game management and "no hunting" areas are near and their expansion may offer a solution.

Quigg Peak (1-807)

The best solution here would seem to be a boundary adjustment based on agreement with users and the wilderness group. This could perhaps be worked out by the Governor's Committee on Forest Resources.

Allan Mountain (L1-YAG)

Has lowgrade uranium. Really lacks wilderness values. Recommend release.

Swift Creek (1-065) and Needle Creek (1-066)

These areas as a "tack on" to the Pintlar Wilderness are supported only for big game security. They are too small and insignificant to justify wilderness designation. Recommend release.

South Sapphire Mountains (1-421)

In both Bitterroot and Deerlodge Forests, this area has some mineral potential. Unfortunately too little is known about minerals and their commercial potential. It seems best to either study this area in some detail before classifying, or just release it for Forest Service management. The idea is to permit sufficient exploration to determine what mineral deposits and potentials may be present.

Lolo National Forest

Great Burn (Hoodoo) (1-301)

This area is recommended by the USFS. It appears excessively large. Boundary adjustments and considerable reduction in size is recommended before wilderness designation.

Meadow Creek (1-302)

Mostly in Idaho, this area hardly seems suited to wilderness. Recommend release.

All other areas in W Lolo south of Clarks Fork River

Follow Forest Service recommendation for nonwilderness.

Beaverhead National Forest

West Pioneer (1-066)

Congressionally designated wilderness study area. Based on recent geological studies and information, this area has two or three molybdenum deposits. Also, the nature of the overthrust structure and correlation with old mining districts to the east, indicate possible extensive mineral deposits below the Precambrian overthrust rocks. This area should not be given wilderness designation. Arguments relative to protection of big game and water supply can be resolved by good Forest Service management.

East Pioneers (1-008)

I have not objected to wilderness designation for this area. However, the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Mineral Industry should be consulted on the boundary. None of the old mining districts, their extensions, or new discoveries of significance should be included in the wilderness area.

West Big Hole (1-943)

Controversial area. Has some history of mining. The Beaverhead mountains rest on a major thrust fault. I cannot now substantiate a high mineral potential. Based on current and historical use, I find it difficult to understand why wilderness designation is considered for this area.

North Big Hole (1-001)

Not as much opposition to this area, but roads and recreational facilities, e.g., Mussigbroad and Pinlar Lakes should not be in the wilderness--if established. The boundaries on the map are not quite clear, but to deny the old folks road access to their favorite lakes [illegible] would be heartless. [illegible] are located in the alpine area, but these, as far as I know, are not [illegible] opposition.

S Tobacco Root Mountains (1-013,-014) Entirely released from Wilderness consideration. Same as N Tobacco Roots in Deerlodge National Forest.

Extreme S Beaverhead (1-945,-961)

Metallic mineral data poor. Possibilities for oil and gas. Suggest reduction of size and boundary adjustments, if wilderness designation is to be seriously considered.

Gallatin National Forest

All Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas established for further planning. (1-545,-549)

I cannot say much about these large areas. The demand for wilderness is strong. The area needed and still needs mineral evaluation. The input from the private sector and solutions sought by the Governor's Committee may be useful in extensive boundary adjustments. The (1-549) area, part east of Ennis Lake should definitely be excluded from wilderness consideration and released.

All areas around the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (1-363,-366,-371,-545, -547,-548,-912)

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is proximate to the most significant deposit of strategic metals in the United States (Stillwater Complex). There is enough wilderness in this area. Valuable mineral deposits are probably already locked up, and the question as to whether or not the ores of strategic metals (chromium, platinum group, nickel, cobalt) can be mined thousands of feet beneath the wilderness will come up in the not too distant future.

The present wilderness is large enough. There is other mineral potential around its borders. Acceptance of Forest Service nonwilderness recommendation is the best solution.

Crazy Mountains (1-541,-742)

Central alpine area of Crazy Mountains has good wilderness characteristics. Suggest careful boundary revision to pull in only the Alpine area. There is oil and gas potential around the Crazy Mountains. Small mineral deposits (gold) were located in the alpine area, but these, as far as I know, are not commercial deposits.

The NE area (1-742) should be entirely released from wilderness consideration.

Custer National Forest

None of the Rare II areas in the Custer Forest are suitable for wilderness and should be released.

1983 JUL 25 PM 3 2

July 6, 1983

Box 244
Meadow Creek Road
Fortine, MT. 59918

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

We are writing to express our views concerning the Bob Marshall completion bill. It is our hope that the Montana component of a national wilderness bill could somehow maintain a seperate identity.

We favor adding the Deep Creek, Renshaw Mtn., Falls Creek-Silver King, Teton River High Peaks, Chateau Mtn., Monture Creek, and Swan Front areas to the Bob Marshall wilderness complex. Wilderness designation is justified because of the economic value of tourism to local families, and because of the precious irreplaceable and irretrievable wildlife habitat contained here.

Wilderness designation is necessary in order to give these areas Congressional protection and to preserve a unique part of our heritage and national wealth for posterity. The watershed, wildlife, fishery, and recreation values exceed the value of the timber on much of these areas. Grazing will and should be allowed to continue where it already occurs.

The Renshaw Mtn., Falls Creek-Silver King, and Monture Creek areas were recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service during RARE II, a decision with which we agree. We urge designation of the other areas mentioned above as well.

We fear that the Forest Service will not be able to manage for anything but commodity outputs without a Congressional mandate to do otherwise. If the positions of Chief and Regional Forester become political appointments then the management of these valuable lands will be subject to the capriciousness of the political winds, probably on a quadrennial basis. That is a situation we should avoid. We also recommend that any omnibus bill contain "release" and "sufficiency" clauses.

Many of our neighbors feel that wilderness designation is needed for the Ten Lakes Scenic Area on the Kootenai N.F. It is felt that several families would benefit from the resultant tourism and recreation. There is a great fear here that additional road-building would be detrimental and the Forest Service would be under unrelenting pressures to road the mountains every 1000 feet without wilderness designation.

One last, but very important reason why we think wilderness is a good idea. The management of threatened and endangered species would be cheaper, easier and better served in wilderness. Presently, timber-sale and mineral coordination with a listed species habitat is frustrating, sometimes costly and often of dubious value.

We request that these comments be made part of the official record on this subject.

Sincerely,

Art D. DiMeo

Julie DiMeo

Art and Julie DiMeo

Janene M. Driscoll
P. O. Box 851
Superior, Montana 59872

1983 JUL 28 PM 2:42

July 13, 1983

Honorable Max Baucus
253 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am a resident of Mineral County, Montana and teach in the Superior school system. I am writing to support the Forest Service recommended wilderness boundaries for the entire Great Burn area, including the portions in Montana which were deleted from the original RARE I recommendations. The Montana deletions are unacceptable because they were done without appropriate analysis. The exclusions are not warranted because adequate data to indicate the presence of valuable minerals has not been gathered.

The area known as the "Great Burn Area" was assigned one of the highest quality index ratings given to any area in the nation of the RARE I Study. This fact alone is evidence that the area needs to be designated a wilderness area.

The Great Burn area, which includes a portion of the Montana-Idaho State Line Trail, contains some very special terrain, an abundance of wildlife, a variety of plants and flowers, and endless opportunities for solitude. It is unique because of the effects of the Fire of 1910. The terrain has been permanently altered -- a new eco-system formed, influenced by the fire.

I invite you, and the others who will eventually decide the future of the area to put on a backpack and experience the area before you make your decision.

Hike into Heart Lake (scan the cliffs -- maybe you'll see a bald eagle soaring), climb the ridge and on past Pearl, Dalton and Trio Lakes. Look closely at those dead trees. Ghosts of a fire 73 years ago. Look at the rocky cliffs by Straight Lake and Siamese Lakes. If you go now, you'll run into lots of snow -- snow with a few boot-prints -- but mainly elk and deer prints. Admire the sub-alpine tundra: terrain that is rarely found in North America.

When you get to Fish Lake, take time to notice the signatures in the mud from last season's motorcycles. Look at the litter, the empty fuel cans, beer cans, etc. and hopefully you'll understand how important it is for you to preserve the wilderness.

As you continue you'll go past a small, un-named lake, then up a ridge and then come upon one of the most magnificent views imaginable. Sit for a moment (or an hour) near Admiral Peak and look at the views. Digest the solitude. Look at the Mission Mountains to the east, the seemingly endless mountain ranges to the south and the tall mountains into Idaho to the west. Mountains uninterrupted by scars of man or "progress". No roads, no clearcuts, no noises that don't occur naturally. It's breathtaking! And it needs to be preserved. Preserved for me, for you, and for the endless generations which will come after us. If you don't preserve it now, one of the truly magnificent wilderness areas will be lost forever.

Wilderness areas cannot be created -- only preserved.

Thank you for your help in making this special part of Montana a Wilderness Area.

Please make my comments a part of the record, as I was unable to testify at the hearing on July 5th.

Sincerely,

Janene M Driscoll

Janene M. Driscoll

July 16, 1983

Dear Senator Melcher:

I would like this letter to be included in the hearing record on the proposed RARE II bill for Montana, in addition to my previous oral statement at the public hearing in Missoula.

In general, I would like to express my support for the "alternative W" allocations as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association, and what is being termed "soft" release for any areas not designated as wilderness by this bill, but which have received significant support for inclusion in the wilderness system.

I specifically wish to urge that the entire Scotchman's Peaks area be granted wilderness designation. If there is to be any chance at all for the Cabinet Mountains grizzly population to survive, it is absolutely essential that this area remain undisturbed. Mountain caribou, also on the endangered species list, were sighted there in the mid-70's.

Approximately one forth of the area is in Idaho (including Scotchman's Peaks), and will not be covered by a Montana bill. It seems doubtful that the Idaho delegation will press for wilderness designation, which makes it all the more important for Montana to protect as much of it as possible.

At the hearing in Missoula, Mr. McBride, representing the timber industry, spoke against the inclusion of Pellick Ridge, the southern portion of the area, while Mr. Balla of ASARCo wanted the south side of lower Ross Creek and the Club Creek areas in the north exempted from wilderness designation.

As I and several others pointed out at the Missoula hearing, Pellick Ridge is steep and rocky -- very marginally suited for timber production. I frankly do not understand why objection is being made to including Pellick Ridge, unless it is being used as a bargaining chip, to be conceded in exchange for deleting the northern areas of contention, where there is more of a timber resource.

In my oral statement I expressed the hope of being able to submit timber stand inventory data on Pellick Ridge, that I had helped gather in 1976 for the Wilderness Institute. Unfortunately, I am not able to do so, as it has apparently been misplaced. However, if such information would be crucial to you in making a decision, I and several of my co-workers would be willing to do plots in the Pellick Ridge area at our own expense.

ASARCo understandably wants what it calls the J. F. properties (Ross Creek) and the Club Creek area left out of wilderness classification, due to mineral deposits in those areas which it has claims on. However, potential profits for ASARCo does not justify depriving all present and future generations of the beauty of these areas.

The argument will no doubt be made that Lincoln County needs the

jobs. A check with the county employment service will show that the opening of ASARCo's Troy project did not appreciably affect the unemployment rate in the county. The promise of jobs brought many new people to the area, keeping the unemployment rate steady. Tourism and recreation are steadily creating more jobs in the area, but such jobs are dependent on maintaining the wilderness character of the land. While it is true that mining jobs pay higher wages, they do not last more than a couple decades, and ultimately perpetuate a boom-bust economy, rather than the long term stability that we truely need.

I do not mean to imply that there should be no mining; but it should not be the over-riding determinant of how the land should be used. More permanent values must be considered.

In the case of Ross Creek at least, it seems that a compromise is feasible. I have asked Mr. Balla about the possibility of accessing that deposit by tunneling under Ross Creek from the existing mine at Mt. Vernon, and he said that it might well be possible. All that would then be needed on the south side of the creek would be ventilator shafts, which I should think could be made unobtrusive enough not to preclude wilderness designation. Whatever is done, the cedar groves of Ross Creek are one of the most outstanding features of the Scotchman's proposal, and must not be left out.

The argument that the minerals must be accessible for mining because of national need does not ring true. Neither silver or copper are in short supply — far from it. If the time comes that there is a pressing need, it would of course be possible to change the law to allow more mining in the wilderness, and it is likely that future advances in mining technology might make it possible to recover more of the mineral deposit with less disturbance. Rather than allowing private corporations to destroy this remnant of our once extensive wildlands now, when there is no need, it seems to me that a more prudent course for the nation would be to treat such areas as national treasures, not to be squandered, but saved.

Sincerely,

Bill Martin

RT 3

Troy, Montana

1983 JUL 15 PM 4:46

July 12, 1983

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

Please include this letter in the official record of the statewide Montana wilderness hearings.

I am writing to support "Alternative W" --the plan by Montana conservationists to add to eight existing wildernesses and to create twenty-one new areas. Since my move to Montana approximately one year ago (primarily to be nearer the very wilderness we are trying to conserve) I have visited five of the nine National Forests included in the "Alternative W" plan and have hiked or cross-country skied in the Welcome, Rattlesnake, Selway-Bitterroot, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Bob Marshall Wildernesses. I am sure that many if not most of the people living in Montana are rooted by those same natural resources that attracted me.

Unspoiled wilderness areas contribute to our well-being not only in obvious ways (watershed, recreation, retreat, research), but also in ways that we are only beginning to understand (subtle and critical interactions between animals, plants, and chemicals on a global scale). Furthermore, I think that the vision and boldness nurtured by first hand wilderness experience are as much or more a part of the American character as the undeniable drive to use that wilderness for material gain and so-called progress.

Accepting the fact that some areas may be released from wilderness consideration, I support the "soft" release of these areas (the only compromise formula accepted by the entire Congress in previous wilderness bills). If we must surrender some wilderness, we should at least play it safe and not surrender it entirely or irrevocably. Once it's gone, it's gone for a long time.

In addition, I do not support any "sufficiency" legislation unless it is part of an overall statewide RARE II bill which includes wilderness protection for the priority "Alternative W" roadless areas.

Thanks for including my written testimony in the official records.

Sincerely,

Diana McMillan

Dana McMillan

cc: Rep. Williams
Sen. Baucus
Rep. Marlenee
Gov. Schwinden

1305 - 2nd Ave, North
Great Falls, Montana
July 10, 1983

1983 JUL 14 PM 3:24

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Melcher:

Concerning the fate of the million roadless acres left in Montana, I wish to go on record as supporting the Montana conservationists' "Alternative U", which would protect 2 million acres, while releasing 3 million acres for development. And I believe in the concept of "soft release" for the millions of acres not designated as wilderness, as this land should be periodically considered for wilderness in forest planning.

The reason many people live in Montana, and many more visit here, is to enjoy her natural wonders--magnificent scenery, varied wildlife, sparkling streams, and wild mountain areas. I think we have to protect our way of life by protecting our resources from subdivisions, roading, oil and gas development, excessive timber harvest, et cetera.

I am especially concerned about preserving additions to the Bob Marshall, particularly along the Rocky Mountain Front. I have hiked and back packed in this area for many years--Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek-Silver King, Teton River High Peaks, Choteau Mountain--spending wonderful hours watching elk, mountain sheep, mountain goats and grizzlies, admiring the wildflowers and birds, and gazing on the magnificent vistas. The sight (and sound) of drilling rigs and helicopters in this area makes me wonder what has happened to our sense of values--that we would sacrifice such a place for a few gas wells. I believe this area must have wilderness protection.

Please include this as a part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Carley McCaulay

Carley McCaulay

Copies to:
Senator Max Baucus, Rep. Pat Williams, Rep. Ron Marlenee, Gov. Ted Schwinden

June 29, 1983

Dear Senator John Melcher

We request that this letter be entered into the official hearing records for the wilderness hearings this July 5,7, & 9 in Missoula, Anaconda, & Great Falls. We will send a serox to those Field Office addresses.

We would like to urge you to speak for all the Montanans & others throughout the U.S. who believe that Montana & Alaska are this great nations last frontier & offering of a unique way of western life. As a people we founded our great country on the promise of rugged individualism, freedom, & a spacious domain. We must not sell out our lands & natural resources as they are our birthright, our hopes & dreams & our betterment of mankind. Without our wild places we lose our significance as individuals & just resign ourselves to being masses of people without ties to the environment in which we live & derive our very existence from - our heritage & wisdom would be lost if we lost our wild places.

Foresight must be used now to protect the 2.2 million acres of wilderness area proposed by conservationists as "Alternative W" which stands for wilderness, wildlife, watershed protection & western lifestyle. Montana & the rest of the U.S. need these areas to be protected for their beautiful scenery, spiritual values, hiking, fishing, & hunting, & canoeing, kayaking, & rafting. The sports industry accross the country benefits from wilderness & many a business derives its livlihood from the wilderness. Also we must mention that tourism in Montana is big business from which the entire state benefits since it is such a clean industry & the outfitting business relies on our wilderness lands as well. The fact that Montana has beautiful scenery not only brings us the benefits of tourism & its monetary rewards but it benefits the rest of the U.S. as well since travel agencies & train & airline & auto companies & photo companies are kept in business also by people seeking to get away from the drugery & crowding of big city life. People accross the nation need the wilderness to be preserved not only for the monetary reasons of tourism, the sports & outfitting industries but for reasons of emotional & mental health & moral betterment. We all need our natural ties to our natural environment protected & preserved.

The 2.2 million acres of wilderness we seek your support of include roadless lands in the following national forests: Lolo; Flathead; Gallatin; Beaverhead; Kootenai; Bitterroot ; Custer; Helena ; & Lewis & Clark. That still leaves another 3 million acres which we ask be used for "soft release" rather than the "hard release" which the Reagan administration proposes.

Please do your utmost to win a victory for Montana & the U.S. by obtaining wilderness protection for the 2.2 million acres of roadless wild land proposed IN "ALTERNATIVE W" & "SOFT RELEASE" of the other remaining 3 million acres of roadless Montana lands. The U.S. (particularly Montanans) now & fub future generations to come will benefit & be proud of such wisdom & courage & foresight.

Thankyou,

Ernest R. Moore
328 CENTRAL AVE
WHITEFISH, MT. 59937
"STORE OWNER"

Senator Max Baucus

~~Senator John Melcher~~
Senate Office Building
U.S. CONGRESS
Washington, D.C.

1983 JUL 15 AM 9:47

Dear Senator Melcher,

I regret missing -the important hearings on wilderness just the past week, but professional work took me from Montana where I would have preferred to be.

Although I do not use the wilderness, partly from age, am concerned that southwestern M ontana wild places be preserved, in particular the Pioneer mountains both east and west areas, the West -Big Hole and the Mussigbrod-Howell Creek area, all lovely, all too good to turn into Wyoming's junky Rock Creek to Casper area at this time. We do have oil in the ground in many places, but the haste to explore is misplaced value, and unreasonable fear of environmentalists who will support mineral exploration when there is more real shortages of fuel, more planning on how to care for wilderness and its rich animal and plant life.

I am sure that you have been informed of the risks of losing wild genetic materials which have so often cured problems of disease--plagued domestic plants. The wilderness preservation is a part of this, and we certainly cannot persuade Brazil or other developing countries who are eating up their forests and wilderness at a rapid pace unless we show the way ourselves that we value and use up our riches with consideration and plan. We must preserve capitalism with a heart and a hope for future generations. I hope you will support Alternative "W".

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Morrissett

Elizabeth Morrissett
1325 West Quartz, no. 204
Butte, M T 59701
July 9, 1983

July [illegible]

Senator [illegible] Melcher
U.S. [illegible]
253 [illegible] Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

Enclosed are copies of the letters that I indicated would be forthcoming in my testimony at the Great Falls wilderness hearings. These letters were sent to the Lincoln ranger district in response to the public notification of the Nevada Creek-Davis Gulch timber sale. In Great Falls you indicated that these could be included as part of the hearing record.

Again I appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully yours,

Gary L. Ingman

Gary L. Ingman

HELENA FOREST CONSERVATION COALITION

P.O. BOX 1257 • HELENA, MT 59624

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

MAR 31 '87

621 2nd Street
Helena, MT 59601

Robert Gibson, Supervisor
Helena National Forest
Federal Building
Helena, MT 59626

Pencil draft of reply prepared and given to W. Worthington for discussion w/ Gibson 3-14-87

Dear Mr. Gibson:

We would like to thank you for our informative and productive meeting on March 1. It is always best to bring things out in the open and discuss them regardless of the outcome.

As you will recall, our dialogue primarily focused on the paramount issues of wildlife/habitat protection and species abundance/diversity preservation in the greater Nevada Creek-Davis Gulch areas. You indicated your dilemma when trying to manage areas in order to successfully integrate logging and wildlife proliferation. Unfortunately, this approach has been and will continue to be a very difficult task. Perhaps there are situations where we shouldn't attempt to introduce a disturbing activity (logging) into a healthy wildlife community. When you have species of wildlife that need dense security and don't adapt well to man's presence, then logging in many instances will have a long term negative impact. Timber harvesting opens up cover and security areas, increases human activities and leaves long lasting road beds which can provide lethal access by man during certain times of the year (hunting, calving). The nearly completed ten year Elk-Logging Study provides factual proof of our contentions when it concludes that 1.) logging increases access and, therefore, increases vulnerability of wildlife (direct relationship) 2.) does not provide significant, beneficial increases in transitory forage production in this part of the state and 3.) decreases available security which elk naturally seek with or without man's presence.

We remain deeply concerned and apprehensive about the Forest Service's timber harvesting plans for the Nevada Creek-Nevada Mtn.-Davis Gulch areas. We are not protesting multiple use guidelines and timber harvest management; however, we do question why there doesn't seem to be the latitude to manage specific areas to maintain its status quo rather than increasing activity, building new roads and generally threatening what is best about the area at present. After all, the Upper Nevada Creek area, for example, is doing very well in producing and maintaining quality and abundant wildlife. It is very doubtful whether introducing timber management in this area will have any beneficial results. If the Forest Service wants to safeguard the existing wildlife community in this area, it should simply leave the area alone. The Forest Service does have the option available to prioritize other resources besides timber and mineral extraction as so stated in the RPA and most recently the NFMA.

Hopefully, we have indicated to you our sincere concern about logging the Upper-Nevada Creek-Davis Gulch areas. We are not convinced that logging and wildlife protection will compliment each other in certain areas. This is the case in this instance. But, there are no easy answers when all

resource needs are analyzed. - Also, we trust you understand that logging and roading forestwide every last remaining roadless area would be disasterous for wildlife and recreation(dispersed) as well as contrary to local citizens' wishes.

At our meeting, we discussed the possibility of forming a citizens' committee to work with the Forest Service on wildlife and habitat related issues and plans. We would be very eager to provide input in this capacity and believe that these kinds of avenues are essential to successful communication and agreeable solutions. We look forward to further action pertaining to this idea.

Also, we are enclosing a brief resume of those characteristics which we feel make the Upper Nevada Creek area"unique" and wothy of special management protection.

Sincerely yours,

Erich Weber
Thomas Greason
Rick O'Connell

cc: Jim Mershon
Rep. Pat Williams
Sen. Max Baucus

UNIQUE QUALITIES OF THE UPPER NEVADA CREEK-NEVADA MOUNTAIN AREA WARRANTING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING

Proposed timber sales in upper Nevada Creek and adjacent drainages along the Continental Divide, northwest of Helena, have caused a great deal of concern among long-time users of this area. It is the expressed opinion of many of these sportsmen that this area, for several reasons, is unique to the Helena National Forest, and should therefore receive special consideration and protection under the current forest plan.

This uniqueness is attributable to the following facts:

(1) Upper Nevada Creek and adjoining country to the south (Gleason Creek, Nevada Mountain and Black Mountain) comprise the largest roadless area remaining within the Helena National Forest along the Continental Divide (outside of wilderness areas).

(2) This area consists of prime wildlife habitat and supports one of the largest elk herds in the Helena National Forest, as well as several rare species including wolverine, mountain lion and grizzly bear. The presence of these animals can only be attributed to the undisturbed nature of the area.

(3) This large roadless area is unique in that it is largely accessible from several points around its periphery which can be driven to under most conditions. Wilderness quality hunting and hiking experiences are available to those willing to walk even short distances. An extended pack trip or overnight camping is not necessary, and day hikes are the rule.

(4) Contained within this area are the two highest peaks to be found along some 50 miles of the Continental Divide; Nevada Mountain and Black Mountain. From these 8,000+ foot vantage points the mountains of the Lincoln-Scapegoat, Mission, Flint Creek and Elkhorn ranges are dramatically visible. This panorama is difficult to achieve elsewhere, and would certainly be of great aesthetic value to users of the proposed Continental Divide Trail if the visual quality of the surrounding area is not drastically altered by timber cuts and roads.

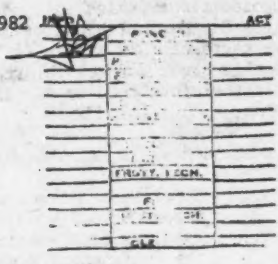
(5) The Nevada Creek watershed presently provides the high quality water necessary for the survival of native Bull Trout, which have been observed spawning in the creek. Such habitat is becoming increasingly rare due to man's impacts on water quality.

It seems very likely that the road construction and timber harvest proposed for this area would destroy its highly unique character. Far greater benefit can be derived by the public if this section of the Continental Divide is excluded from the timber base and is allowed to remain in its current state.

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

APR 7 '82

April 6, 1982



Bob Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Helena National Forest
Federal Building
Helena, MT 59626

Dear Bob:

The Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen wish to thank you sincerely for providing area users with the opportunity to have input in the future direction of Helena National Forest management. The recent workshops in Lincoln, Townsend, and Helena seemed to be very constructive and allowed us to voice our opinions. We hope that many of our concerns can be responded to and our suggestions on changes in management be incorporated into the 10 year Forest Plan.

We certainly realize, as information officer Seyden pointed out, that the Helena National Forest "won't become a haven for hikers or a timber farm", because of multi-use directives. However, we do feel that in certain areas, wildlife and non-motorized dispersed recreational opportunities should be the major resource allocation, at the exclusion of other activities such as logging. The upper Nevada Creek-Gleason Creek proposed timber sale area is a prime example.

Our group consists of many long-time users of this area along the Continental Divide. Collectively, we have spent tens of thousands of hours there over the last 70 years hiking, hunting, and camping. As Weber, Greason, and O'Connell pointed out in their recent letter to you, the area has many unique qualities which should be preserved. We dread the thought of seeing the country roaded.

Our group has a very comprehensive understanding of how elk and other game use the area as a whole. We are familiar with which bits of the terrain the animals are dependent on for mating, calving, security during hunting season and those that are important as winter migration staging areas. Last Monday evening prior to the Lincoln workshop, several of us met with District Ranger Mershon and Lath Smith. We requested the opportunity to provide our knowledge of these critical portions of the Nevada Creek drainage to the I.D. Team working on the current environmental assessment. We felt this would give them much more detailed information on the potential wildlife impacts of timber sales there than they currently have available. We have compiled this information on a topo map provided by Mershon and have forwarded it to him.

Because of our deep concerns for upper Nevada Creek, we hope you will give this information careful consideration when formulating management alternatives for the Nevada Creek area.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingman

Gary L. Ingman
Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen

GLI:ddo

cc: Jim Merahon

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 922
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

March 31, 1982.

D-4

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Dear Sir;

Please accept my comments as follows, concerning the proposed Jewett Mountain Roadless Area, including the Upper Nevada Creek and Devils Gulch. As I am familiar with this area and well understand the sedentariness of the biological sequences in the Nevada Mountain roadless area, I wish to inform you of my objection to such logging proposal.

This Nevada Mountain Roadless Area and environs should have received Wilderness Recommendation status during the recent RARE-II process and was not simply due to the passage of the Osage Gulf Wilderness Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-395) even the such act must not influence the active consideration of other potential wilderness units. This Nevada Mountain area contains not only wilderness features of material importance but scenic, wildlife, historic and cultural resources of equal value, and in any case should receive full wilderness status, and to be included within our National Wilderness Preservation System.

We are aware of ever increasing encroachment and industrialization. It is ever more important that we save our few fragments of our heritage of natural lands; our wilderness areas. Let us wilderness are replenish our minds, our bodies and our souls so that we may learn not only to survive but to grow and prosper as a free people in a free land. For wilderness means freedom, and to deny the American people this wilderness is to deny them their freedom.

Wilderness, then, provides a natural and all like a lasting refuge on this planet.

I strongly suggest that the following family of roadless units in this particular vicinity be afforded wilderness status - with acreage -

- Nevada Mountain 65,000 ; - Caples Mountain 16,000 ; - Castle Mountain 11,000 ;
- Explorer Creek 20,000 ; - Grassmere Hill 23,000 and - Lincoln Gulch 13,000.

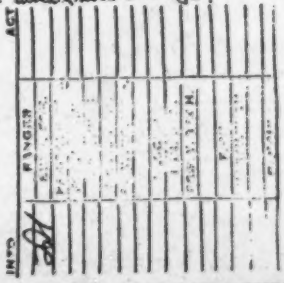
And to be considered as the Lincoln-Black Rock Wilderness complex of some 150,000 acres.

Let us never witness them destroying our American wilderness heritage.

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
APR 9 '82



LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

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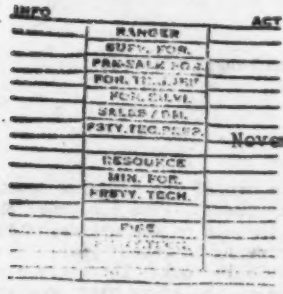


Mr. Jim Mershon
District Ranger
USFS District 4
Lincoln, Mt. 59639

November 11, 1981

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I represent a group of citizens in the Helmville area who are concerned about Forest Service logging operations proposed for the Nevada Creek Dam drainage. From what we can gather, 5-year planning includes large-scale logging efforts, in order to meet a "sustained yield" quota of some sort.

While there is abundant question about the wisdom of planning timber harvests from public lands without apparent regard for market fluctuations, our more urgent concern is for our safety--living below a dam that will fill much more suddenly as its watershed is logged away.

Local ranchers and farmers will be interested in the relationship between fast run-off conditions and the availability of water in the reservoir throughout the summer irrigation season.

Some of our initial questions, then, are (1) will the dam hold if your plan is carried out? (2) Will existing feeder streams run as dependably with the removal of forest cover as they do now? (3) do you have a staff hydrologist who can give us an authoritative response to these questions?

We would like to have a copy of the 5-year plan for the area involved, with maps and proposed harvest volumes, broken down by board feet of saw timber and products. We would also like to be notified of any hearings or other opportunities for public input on this matter.

With sincere thanks,

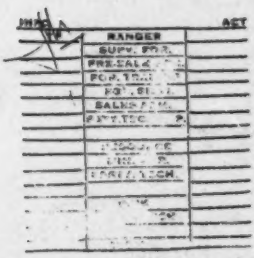
Larry Dodge

Lawrence Dodge, co-chair
Upper Blackfoot Preservation Association
Box 60, Helmville, Montana 59843

27-608 O - 84 - 65

David K. Smith
1515 Railroad
Helena, MT 59601

JAN 18 '82



January 15, 1982

Mr. Jim Marshon
District Ranger, Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
Lincoln, MT 59639

Dear Mr. Marshon,

I am writing you regarding the proposed timber sales in Upper Nevada Creek, Davis Gulch and Horsefly Creek. I am concerned about the proposal because of the potential negative impacts on the elk herd living in the area. The herd has been continuously growing in recent years--primarily because of the excellent roadless habitat available to them. There are also several other wildlife species inhabiting the area including bear, cougar, wolverine, bobcat, and eagles--none of which are tolerant to logging, road intrusion or the associated increase in human activity. New roads into these areas <u>will</u> increase hunting pressure, regardless of promises of seasonal road closures.

Another concern I have is the potential erosion problem caused by road construction. The area in question is very steep--especially the north slopes, and the soils are quite fragile and highly erodable. Situated near the Divide, the area is subject to heavy spring runoff. How is your agency planning to minimize this problem? What about adverse effects on downstream water users?

I question whether the public expense of road construction is justified for a timber sale like this. Are you planning more sales in the area in the future or is this a one shot deal? Everyone knows the housing market is in a terrible slump because of the current economic situation. I happen to be an unemployed carpenter myself. The Silver City sawmill is currently shut down with a huge stockpile of timber just sitting in their yards. Are you sure there is a need to cut <u>more</u> timber? If it is necessary, why do you want to go into an area that is virtually roadless? Surely it would be more economical to log areas where the necessary access roads already exist.

I plan to attend the open house your agency is sponsoring next Wednesday in Helena. I will have some more questions for you at that meeting.

Sincerely,

David K. Smith

David K. Smith
(concerned citizen)

THE Farmers Insurance Group OF COMPANIES

DAVID C. HARDING
1083 Helena Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
Bus: 442-7001
Res: 933-8398

James Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Jan. 12, 1982

Dear Sir;

I am writing in responce to the proposed Upper Nevada Creek timber sale.

While not being opposed to the sensible harvesting of timber from our National Forests, I am in this case opposed to logging in this area.

I have spent alot of time hunting in this area over the last 15 years and feel that the introduction of roads would not only destroy valuable hiding cover for the Elk during hupting season, but would also make the area more accessible to "road-hunters", who have been known to over-come any locked gate or gully-hump.

I also believe that if this area were made more accessible other species would also suffer. This area is about as close to undisturbed as one can find without going to a designated wilderness area.

In closing I would like to thank you for your concern towards the public sector in your decision making, I know how hard it is to mediate such matters.

Thanks Again,

David Harding

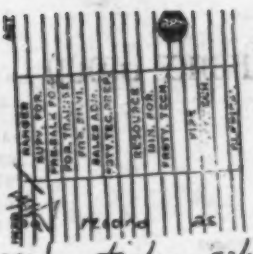
David Harding

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 18 '82

RANGER	
SUPV. FOR.	
PRE-SALE FOR.	
FOR. TRAINEE	
FOR. SILVI.	
SALES ADM.	
PRTY. TEC. PREP.	
RECREATION	
MIN. P. R.	
PRTY. TECH.	

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 18 1982



1-14-82

DEAR Mr. Morshon:

I want to go on record as being opposed to the proposed timber sale and harvest for the Nevada Creek area northwest of Helena.

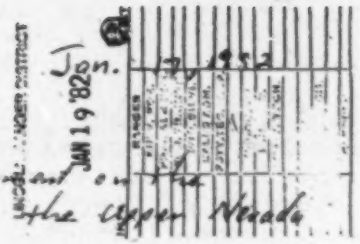
The reasons for my opposition to this proposed action should be obvious to you since you are the District Ranger and have undoubtbly visited the area many times. I have been to the area many times in the last several years and have become aware of its unique ecological significance.

The area supports a thriving elk, deer, wolverine, mountain lion, black bear, and possible grizzly bear population. Any development of the area would adversely impact a resource readily available to Montanians and visitors to our state.

I would be appalled to learn the reason for the proposed timber sale was to fill quotas necessary for support of your district office. The reasons can not be for the economic good of the state but if you believe they are then you most obviously have not evaluated the economics of recreational use of the area.

I request an environmental impact statement be written on the proposed sale in particular the impacts to wildlife in the area resulting from the timber harvest. Please send me any information you may have on dealing with wildlife impact from timber harvesting in the Nevada Creek area.

(over)



To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on the proposed Timber sale in the Upper Nevada Creek area.

I object to this timber sale. My objection is mainly due to the roads that would be constructed to harvest the timber. Much of this area is currently roadless. Construction of roads would ruin the pristine nature of the area.

The area is rich in deer and elk and I feel it provides a refuge which helps supply game to the Beartrap area, which is east of the Upper Nevada Creek area. After hunting other parts of the Helena National Forest for 4 years without getting a deer, I have now been successful in getting a deer 2 years in a row in the Beartrap area. Beartrap is heavily hunted but produces a lot of game. I feel that the presence of roads in the Upper Nevada Creek would reduce the deer supply in Beartrap and possibly move the elk completely out of the area. The Beartrap area is too open to provide enough security to hold game there without the added security of being able to go over to the Upper Nevada Creek area for refuge.

Yours truly

John Jarvie

John Jarvie, 1510 Hauser, Helena, MT

January 15, 1982

Mr. Mershon:

Being a carpenter I realize the necessity of lumber for our growing houseing and commercial needs. I would probably be the first one to complain if there were a shortage of lumber for a certain project. However, the Davis-Gulch, Nevada Creek area should be preserved. The area surrounding the study area is allready scard by clear cutting and forest fires from previous years. From my understanding, the study area will be in the prime habitat of a herd of several hundred elk. Where will they go from here? Access roads can only mean a reduction in wildlife. As a carpenter I would rather do without the 2X4's then to have to bring my grandchildren to Yellowstone to see the last of the elk. This may seem a bit far-fetched, but perhaps not. Also I am concerned with the impact of the spring runoff, after witnessing this years floods. I hope you appreciate my concern. It seems to me that many other areas of lower elevation would be a better place to look. Thank you for your time.

Jim Harding
P.O.B.4514
Helena, Mt. 59604

also I hope you will keep me informed of your plans on this matter ... thanks.
gs.

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 19 '82

INFO		ACT
	RANGER	
	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	[illegible]

1750
Public Files

Commercial Timber Sales
NEPA
Involvement; Upper Nevada, Davis Gulch, Horse Fly EA's

The open house was held at the Lincoln Ranger Station on January 13-15, from noon to four P.M. and on January 13 and 14, from seven to nine P.M. The purpose of the open house was to provide the public with an opportunity to identify Issues and Concerns pertaining to the proposed Upper Nevada, Davis Gulch and Horse Fly timber sales. This information would then be used by the interdisciplinary teams preparing environmental assessments on these proposals. The following input was received:

1. January 13, 1982 Noon to Four P.M.

No comments received

2. January 13, 1982 Seven to Nine P.M.

Representing the Forest Service were Ladkinp Swift and Bill Queen. The following people attended this session: Rod Bullis, Jerry Burns, Dan Quie and Larry Davis all of Lincoln. The following comments were received:

A. Rod Bullis: Stated that he was representing himself as a private individual and a professional forester. Comments pertaining to Upper Nevada proposal:

1. Nevada creek should be managed carefully for watershed, elk, timber and hunting recreation.
2. Concern that significant short-term (50 years) changes in stream channel stability are likely to occur as a result in accelerated placer mining activity. This would influence hydrologic cutting limits.
3. Considers hunting quality to presently be high due to the very limited access by vehicles and general conditions in the area (topographic and vegetative).
4. Maintain the integrity of inventoried elk high summer use areas.
5. Opposed to any increase in domestic grazing.
6. Forest Service should consider present travel plan in relation to proposed project ie. new access points and routes may necessitate additional restrictions on existing roads. Total management will be needed in the area to protect wildlife habitat and quality hunting.
7. Little concern over visual quality

The following comments pertain to the Horse Fly proposal:

1. Forest Service wildlife inventory shows winter range as being within 10% of optimum cover/forage ratio. This should be a red flag.
2. Concerned over possible invasion of noxious weeds on big game winter range. Spread facilitated by roads and cutting units.
3. Questioned if additional forage created would be available for wildlife or domestic stock (sheep).

4. [illegible] each winter range is unique. Questioned if Forest Service knew enough about this particular one to begin managing it.
5. Stated that most of the riparian habitat in the area was on private lands. Concern that riparian habitat on National Forest lands not be negatively impacted. Specifically addressed their importance as big game travel corridors and adverse effect to fisheries if flotable debris or suspended sediments are produced.
6. Concern that elk use will decline if cover is removed from winter range.
7. Concern that if a loop road is constructed from West Flesher to Black Diamond it will become a major recreation route, including snowmobiles, and that this will have a major adverse impact on wildlife.
8. The proposed intent of this entry is to harvest posts and poles. Will the roads constructed to do so be on same standards as they would if this was a sawlog entry?
9. Will entries be intermittent or continuous?
10. Take into consideration past and ongoing activities on adjacent private lands. They have caused the values of many of the resources on the National Forest lands to appreciate. ie. wildlife habitat on National Forest is more valuable now because of the activities on adjacent private where they have been reduced.
11. Opposes the construction of roads across [illegible] winter range. Primarily because of increased potential for invasion of noxious weeds.
12. Generally supports continued access from West Flesher and

continued harvesting of designated post and pole stands. Will provide a map of the area that this refers to.
13. Opposes the construction of loop roads.
14. Wants assurance that quality hunting and protection of elk from harassment can be maintained.
15. Any new roads constructed should be located and designed so as to avoid the possibility of accessing them from adjacent roads on private land.
16. If a stand on winter range does not provide thermal cover, hiding cover or security it could be considered for harvest.
17. Need a situation where activity is occurring in this drainage and adjacent drainages simultaneously.
18. What will the logging dynamics be for harvesting posts? Is this to every tree or employ shelding systems including cedar yarding.

B. Jerry Burns: Following concerns were expressed

1. Timber sales are becoming to large in this area for the small logger. Cannot compete with the larger outfits for sales.
2. There is a major noxious weed problem in Nevada Creek area. This should be a consideration in future sales.
3. Nevada Creek area is unique in regards to wildlife. Wolverine, mountain lion, pine martin, grey wolf and grizzlie bear inhabit the area. Conditions there, including isolation, provide opportunities for wildlife not found on many other areas of the District.
4. Concerned about possible effects on the Continental Divide National

Service Trail onto the Gould-Helmville Trail.

C. Ken Quie

1. Concerned that the Forest Service is planning to develop the timber in an inventoried roadless area.
2. Expressed a belief that roads have an adverse effect on game populations.
3. Would like to see the roadless areas developed more for game and recreation. Could not present any ideas for improving the conditions in the Nevada drainage in order to accomplish those objectives. Stated that the status quo may be better than anything we might do.

D. Larry Davis

1. Supported Bullis' points on the noxious weed problems.
2. Forest Service should look closely at adjacent activities in the Horse Fly area when making their assessment. Particular emphasis in logging of winter range or adjacent private lands.
3. Concern that road use be controlled during hunting season and that more roads be permanently closed following completion of sales.
4. Three hunting parties in Nevada area reported hearing wolves and two parties reported sightings.
5. Recommended that consideration be given to wolves and grizzlies

[illegible] the Nevada area.
[illegible] ... [illegible] ... [illegible] ... [

- thi[illegible] that is the area most favorable [illegible] the elk. The McQuithy Gulch, North Fork Little Pinto[illegible] and Bartop Gulch areas have been heavily logged or burned. Consequently elk [illegible] over the ridge [illegible] the head of [illegible] creek. [illegible]

III. January 14, 1982; Seven to Nine [illegible]

[illegible] Cochran, Nevada Creek Water [illegible] Association [illegible] Valley; Concerned that if the Forest Service cuts too many [illegible] the spring runoff would be increased which would be detrimental to the water supply.

I. [illegible]ry 15, 1982; Nine to four P.M.

[illegible] comments received.

Comments on Nanda / Davis / Hornaday
by Allen Koutzebue - RAR Limited

- Sales Too big 1-even almost right
- Couldn't go into Sawmill Business again
- won't be here in 4-5 years & cannot trust to land use if F.S. timber continues
- Sales Too big
- environmental concerns are over stated
- But timber is gone or soon will be - will be more work in F.S. timber
- logging won't drive elk out. They use land then grow back
- people are stingy they want lease to private hunting areas
- people are emotional about elk herds
- Question future of livelihood if timber harvest is dropped
- Tried & failed for every NBM
- If supply of wood becomes reduced local tax base from mills & employees will be gone
- wetland rather see trees used than fall over & rot
- 17 or 18 people employed at RAR when mill is in full production

Comments Received 1/22/82
Jim Worth

January 21, 1982

Mr. Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I recently read in the Helena newspaper that the Forest Service is considering timber sales in Davis Gulch and Upper Nevada Creek near Lincoln. I am apposed to the development of this area because of its pristine quality and values. Road construction resulting from logging will increase access to the area and is sure to lead to further development.

Although I believe in multiple use management of federal lands, it is clear that the Forest Service and other federal land management agencies have a poor track record when it comes to fish and wildlife management. Over grazing on range lands, riparian degradation due to grazing in streambottoms, and road construction techniques that accelerate erosion are just a few examples.

In view of the fact that federally owned lands are fast becoming the major areas of recreation in Montana, it is becoming increasingly important to manage these areas for recreation. I hope that you will reconsider the proposed sale.

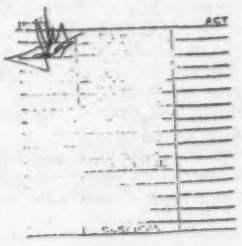
I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Phillips
Helena

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Senator John Melcher
Representative Pat Williams

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 22 '82



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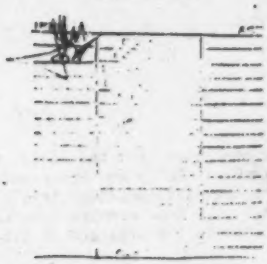
JAN 22 '82



421 Breckenridge
Helena MT 59601
January 20, 1982

Mr. Jim Mershon
District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln MT 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I was extremely upset to learn, through press releases and conversations with Lath Smith of your office, of the proposed "management" plans for the headwaters regions of Nevada, South Fork Poorman, and Horsefly Creeks. I was even more appalled to examine a map depicting the numerous adjacent areas slated for timber harvesting under your current five-year plan.

The future of the three 1982 environmental assessment areas is of the greatest concern to me. Being a third generation native Montanan, I have used this country along the Continental Divide extensively for hunting and many other types of outdoor recreation, as did my father and grandfather before me. I am more than intimately familiar with the area and feel that it is a very deep part of me. As you well know, much of it is virgin timberland and truly wild country, particularly upper Nevada and Horsefly Creeks. It has changed little since the days when my relatives used to travel from Marysville to appreciate the natural beauty and to hunt, hike and fish. The area still retains thriving deer, cougar, wolverine and blackbear populations. Although many of the areas visitors have for years been aware of at least a transient grizzly population, documented sightings are limited. Fellow sportsmen and I were excited to learn of your documentation of a grizzly in upper Nevada Creek last summer.

Prior to the 1930's, the area did not support an indigenous elk herd. Trappings and subsequent transplanting of about 25 animals from the Yellowstone herd provided the nucleus for the current elk population, which may now exceed 700 animals. This dramatic and continued growth attests to the suitability of the area as elk habitat and the availability of natural refuge areas which prevent overharvesting. Increased hunting pressure in recent years necessitates maintenance of these refuge areas, which are found in the heavily timbered headwaters regions of the drainages, specifically Nevada and Horsefly Creeks, as well as others. The absence of roads here, the steep terrain, and the dense north slope growths of lodgepole pine are all factors favoring elk survival and herd growth. This "heart" of the

country along the Divide provides the last stronghold for the elk and other wildlife species, especially those like the grizzly, wolverine, and cougar---animals requiring solitude and minimal human intervention. Outlying areas are readily accessible, the result of roads built in association with mining and timber harvesting. The hunting is generally good throughout the entire portion of the National Forest for both elk and deer. However, I feel that this is, in part, a result of the roadless refuge areas which act as a source of recruitment for the more accessible areas. It is highly doubtful that this portion of the Helena National Forest could continue to provide for hunters the numbers of animals it now does were it all readily accessible by motorized vehicle. The mobility of the elk in this range has been demonstrated by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks personnel, who radio-collared a cow elk on the Grady Ranch only to locate it months later in upper Nevada Creek, where it was calving.

My concerns for preservation of the very important and unique wildlife habitat that the 1982 environmental assessment areas contain leave me no choice but to oppose any logging activity in the now roadless areas along the Divide. Personally, I am not opposed to sensible, well planned and managed timber harvesting. It is an obvious necessity. However, the road system which would be built in the area is a very important issue. Ready access would definitely jeopardize the future of big game hunting here. An older trophy animal would be a rarity. To me, seasonal or permanent closures of logging roads would not be acceptable. The idea sounds good in theory, but I am very much aware of the poor past record of instituting and enforcing such closures on the part of the Lincoln and other ranger districts. One small example, although not logging-related, might be the case of the road built illegally up into the East Fork of Nevada Creek by miners. The perpetrators, as you know, were not accessing a mining claim nor did they have a permit. The streambed was anihilated. And your agency did not pursue enforcement action nor attempt to close the road. Long-term enforcement of logging road closures is an impossible quarantee because of the omnipresent potential for future budget cuts and staff reductions. Sometime in the future, public access to the road system would likely be inevitable.

In addition to my concerns for wildlife habitat preservation, I seriously question the economic feasibility of profitable timber harvesting in the three areas to be studied. Obviously, seven or eight million board feet from the combined three sales is not much. Much of the north slope lodgepole wouldn't produce a decent 4x4. And the south slope Douglas-fir is frequently widley spaced and somewhat stunted due to arid conditions. What will the system of roads cost to build? It is rumored that you will access the areas from several directions because of the steep nature of the terrain. In my opinion, it may be an unfair burden on the tax paying public, who will no doubt absorb road building costs, to undertake such a questionable venture. Higher quality, more accessible timber must surely be available. What will lumber demands be in 1984? Is demand expected to meet the supply which will be generated by your agency's apparent policy of intensified production? At the current time, of 44 lumber mills in western Montana, only around 14 are in operation. The Silver City mill is indefinitely closed while thousands of board feet decay in its yard. Government subsidized, expensively harvested timber seems senseless.

I also have deep concerns for water quality protection in these tributaries of

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the Blackfoot River. Nevada Creek water quality and riparian vegetation have already been damaged by mining-related road construction. Logging of the extremely steep terrain, the presence of roads, and road building activities could accelerate erosion of the fragile soils in the area. Ground-covering vegetation is sparse. Spring snowmelt off the Divide at the heads of these drainages frequently results in extremely high runoff. Water quality impacts in the very headwaters of these streams may threaten downstream water uses and jeopardize the aquatic community. In case you are not aware, upper Nevada and South Fork Poorman Creeks serve as brook trout, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden spawning grounds. We have observed very large Dolly Varden spawning in Nevada Creek below Gleason Creek during hunting season.

In closing I wish to express my belief that this is too wild and beautiful an area to develop for limited, marginal quality, and expensively-produced timber. With our depressed economy, prime recreation areas a few minutes travel from a major population center are extremely valuable. Personally, I am not aware of an affordable alternative to the experiences I now enjoy and cherish in these headwaters along the Continental Divide. Once areas such as these are developed, their unique qualities are lost forever. Much of the portion of your district between Lincoln and Avon is already laced with roads and is freely accessible. Isn't it possible to preserve these few parcels of relatively roadless country adjacent to the Continental Divide as natural areas? Why does management necessitate development?

I trust you will give my concerns adequate consideration in your environmental assessments of the area. Additionally, I would like to request that you keep me informed of developments on this issue and provide me with a copy of your assessment report upon completion. Please acknowledge receipt of my letter.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingman

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Pat Williams
Jim W. Flynn

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 25 '82
RANGER
SUPV. FOR.
PRE-SALE FOR.
TRAILS
POR. BY VL.
SALES AD.
PARTY, TOC. PT. SP.
RECREATION
MIN. PVR.
PARTY, TCCR.
FIRE
TCCR.
CLERICAL

Erich Weber
733 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Lincoln, MT 59639

January 21, 1982

Dear Mr. Mershon,

I would like to express my deep concerns for the future of the upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch drainages in light of the recently proposed timber sales. I have come to know the upper Nevada Creek area intimately over the past eight hunting seasons, and I feel that there are several reasons why timber harvest is not appropriate in the headwaters of this drainage.

First and foremost is the fact that the timber sale area is essentially undisturbed and roadless, and consists of prime wildlife habitat. My partners and I have sighted wolverine and mountain lion, both of which cannot tolerate the extended presence and impacts of man. It is no secret that a large number of elk inhabit the country along the Continental Divide between Nevada Mountain and Poorman Creek. In the considerable time that I've spent in this area, I've learned that these elk depend greatly on the densely timbered north slopes and ridge tops for bedding areas and refuge from hunting pressure, while the relatively open south slopes are important feeding areas. I fear that roading and harvesting of timber on these slopes would severely impact the elk and other wildlife by

fragmenting and destroying cover and habitat, and by creating access into areas never before reached by motor vehicles, or even on foot. Road closures cannot satisfactorily reduce these impacts because they are nearly impossible to implement and enforce, and do nothing to prevent foot traffic. Closures also cannot mitigate the loss of habitat that results when these road systems are bulldozed across a hillside. The end result will be the decline of an elk herd that has been 50 years in the making.

It is difficult for me to understand how the Forest Service can justify the harvest of timber in the proposed sale area when these additional points are considered. The value of the lodge pole and Douglas-fir timber, which is of marginal quality and limited quantity, cannot begin to cover the cost of access road construction. Will Federal subsidies of tax monies be necessary? Re-growth, if any, takes place at an extremely slow pace at the high altitude of the sale area. Steep hillsides with fragile soils are highly susceptible to erosion by rainfall and snowmelt, especially where torn up by the skidding of logs. Will tree planting, if done, assure the re-forestation of cut areas under these severe conditions? Increased runoff and erosion from logged-off slopes could cause elevated flows and silt problems in Nevada Creek, and overtax the capacity of Nevada Creek Reservoir. What can be done to prevent these problems?

For the above reasons, it is my opinion that the upper Nevada Creek area, in its entirety, should be withdrawn from consideration for timber harvest. The southern end of the proposed Davis Gulch sale, which includes the north slope of the Gould-Helmville ridge, should also be spared. The value of these areas as prime wild life and recreational areas far outweighs that of the timber present on them, especially when the great potential for environmental degradation is considered. I certainly hope that the Forest Service has not reached the "bottom of the barrel" of feasible timber harvest areas, as this proposed sale seems to indicate.

I thank you for your consideration, and trust that my comments will be included, along with others recieved, in your Environmental Assessment. I would also appreciate a written reply to my comments and questions

Respectfully yours,

Eric E. Webb

cc: Hon. Max Baucus
Hon. Pat Williams
Mr. Jim W. Flynn

Comments by Jerry Biersch (Biersch Log Cabins)
on Upper Nevada – Davis Canal Sales & Horseshoe Road.
Jerry visited the station and discussed this with me

His comments:

- He is interested in post & hauser logs being put up as close to Lincoln as possible. Sawlog operators have none of a margin to work with as far as haul costs and energy consumption are concerned.

- if we access Upper Nevada / Davis Canal from the top, the road in the vicinity of the mines (Sec 27) should be rebuilt as it is extremely expensive to haul on the existing road.

- Access the area (Davis Canal) using the So. Fork & Poorman road as this route has a favorable grade and would be a cheaper haul to Lincoln

- Sawlog access should give strong consideration to haul down Marsh Cr to mill at Silver

- if elk management is a problem – close the roads during hunting season. He feels that logging benefits the elk by providing openings. He feels the major impact is a result of easy access for more hunters.

- He stated that both Horseshoe and Davis Canal have large quantities of good material for the post & hauserlog market.

1-18-85

To Lincoln District Ranger

In regard to timber sales in the District, I think you should not cut the critical ~~are~~ elk habitat area in Upper Nevada Creek. There are already so many cuts in the surrounding area that the elk now are concentrated in the remaining wild land.

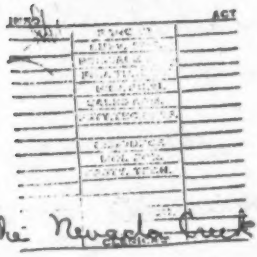
Given the possibility of grizzly and wolf in the area I do not think roads should be extended for timbering access. The environmental evaluation should address this wildlife presence.

Bob Fox
481 S. Park
Helena

Jan. 25, 1982

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 26 '82



Mr. Jim Mcahon
Forest Service
Lincoln District Ranger
Lincoln, Mt. 59639

Dear Mr. Mcahon

I am against logging the Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas.

If you have to log the area why not use horses?

The area to be logged is it really a quality stand of timber.

The lodge pole pine in the area looks like junk to me. Most of the trees wouldn't even make a good 2x4.

Why does the Forest Service have to put a road on every mountain?

The Forest Service is going to ruin a nice little roadless area in the Helena National Forest. Plus destroying a nice elk and deer herd.

Why ruin the habitat for a few grizzly bears? I thought the grizzly bear was an endangered species. I thought the Forest Service was suppose to protect the grizzly bear habitat not destory it.

Here is a list of questions that were left unanswered in my mind at the January 20 meeting in Helena.

(1) How much soil erosion is going to take

place on the steep mountains in the logged off area?

(2) What's going to happen to the water quality of the creeks in the logged area?

(3) Is the Forest Service going to let grazing take place on the logged area?

(4) Is the Forest Service going to close the roads in the area? Are you going to enforce road closure?

(5) How many trees are going to be left standing in the clear cut area?

(6) How is the area to be logged?

(7) Where will the roads be put in the area?

I thought you were vague and evasive of the questions asked of you at the meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Dennis Braun
705 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

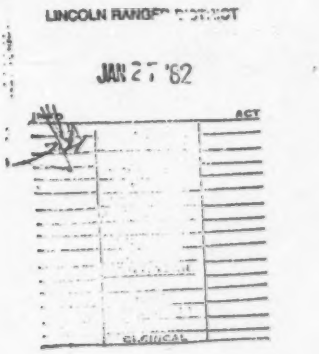
Dear Jim

I'm against Logging Virgin Stands of timber. We've Logged enough areas that we should be able to grow enough to meet of need, where the roads & damage have already occurred.

Virgin timber has the varity & beauty too high to put a price tag on it. Also road through prime wildlife habitat greatly weaken it. As road hunters, etc. follow the loggers.

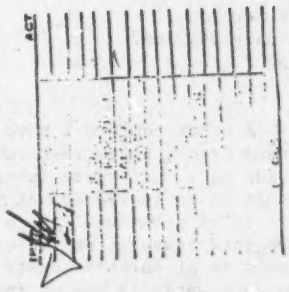
follow you conscience & do the best job of saving virgin timber & wildlife habit as possible.

Thank you Ron Lyon



January 26, 1982

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 27 '82



Jim Mershon
P. O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59634

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I had a chance to attend the public meeting held in the Federal Building in Helena on Wednesday, January 20, 1982, concerning the proposed logging of the Nevada, Davis and Horsefly Creek drainages. I have several comments that I would like to make in regard to the proposed logging and I would hope you would take these into consideration when forming an environmental statement at some point in the future.

I would first of all like to point out that I am not satisfied that Dick Woods is meeting his plan of operation for the mining that is currently taking place in the upper Nevada Creek drainage. I have hiked this area extensively and I can tell very easily that he has disturbed well over five acres in doing the placer mining that he has done. I am extremely unhappy with the situation up there and I hope that this can be monitored and the mess he has made be cleaned up. I realize that this is off the subject, but I have to indicate to you my displeasure of the current situation.

My comments will be primarily involved in taking into account all three drainages at one time. I am most familiar with the upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas. I do not believe there should be any logging whatsoever of the upper Nevada Creek area, nor the little Davis Gulch area. If it can be feasibly done, I think the lower part of Nevada Creek where the roads currently exist should be reexamined and reevaluated for potential logging purposes. I am not that familiar with the Horsefly area. However, I feel that, and know, that some of the country in there is very conducive for pole cutting, provided this is done on a selective basis. To clear cut an area for pole sales is not conducive to a healthy environment.

I am concerned about many things in this particular area but primarily the existing elk herd. My family has hunted this country for years and it is essentially our livelihood when it comes to eating. I feel that if this area does receive any type of human encroachment, such as that which logging may bring, the elk herd will be destroyed from the face of the earth eventually. Therefore, I am recommending that Nevada Creek not be encroached upon in any manner whatsoever. I am also recommending that little Davis Gulch also not be encroached upon whatsoever as far as logging purposes. The lower end of each of these drainages should be examined once again for logging next to some of the areas that have already been logged down there and leave the upper portion of these drainages alone.

I think some other things we have to take into consideration are that there is a possibility of grizzly bear, wolverene, grey wolfe, and pine martin in this area. I feel that to maintain even the possibility of having these animals exist in this area would have to preclude any logging taking place.

Continued page 2

Another concern I have is the water situation. If the area is logged in Nevada Creek, that creek runs for miles prior to eventually dumping into Nevada Lake. If there is timber taken off the land, this will more than likely result in an increased water flow into the Nevada Creek stream bed itself. This in effect would have a higher stream water yield which will eventually dump into Nevada Creek reservoir. As you know, the Nevada Creek reservoir itself is of earthen construction and can only withstand so much water. If too much water is dumped into Nevada Creek at any one time, this could blow the whole dam and think of the consequences downstream.

I am also very concerned about the stability of the stream bed eco system as it used to exist on Nevada Creek. I have hiked miles from the source of Nevada Creek downstream and have noticed very easily that there is a great amount of heavy sediment that has been kicked up as a result of the Dick Woods placer mine at the upper end. Like I said, not just for a couple hundred yards but for miles downstream I have noticed sediment sitting on rocks. What does this do to the eco system of the stream itself? I can tell you that it will ruin it.

I am concerned about the way that stream bed is torn up at the present time. The placer mine Dick Woods is working on now essentially sits right at the very source of Nevada Creek. To start a creek flow where you have disturbed earth, such as he has at the present time, is simply not right. If that goes along with any plan of operation, I'd be very surprised. There is no natural passage way for the water; there is no settling pond for the sediment, and there should be. I think you should also examine whether or not they are making any money in that situation. To go up there and just tear that area apart for that purpose alone is not correct.

I think there should be some other factors involved in researching information prior to preparation of the initial environmental impact statement. First of all, there are dollar amount tradeoffs between logging and recreation. Over the past ten years, this area is becoming more of a high impact recreation area, not only from a hunting and fishing standpoint but from a cross country skiing and berry picking, camping and hiking standpoint. I know for a fact and have several friends that cross country ski up in the proposed study area and I just can't believe that logging would produce a greater amount of skiers going through a clear cut. The natural esthetics are more important to a cross country skier than a logged off area. The dollar amounts from a recreational standpoint should be a consideration in taking into account this study area.

Another point I'd like to make is the fact that a lot of the timber in Nevada Creek and the little Davis Creek area is not conducive to economies of scale when it comes to logging. A lot of that timber simply does not have a very high yield in terms of board foot production versus what is torn down. I used to work in a saw mill and am aware of the type of trees that do produce good lumber. There are not that many trees in this district (Nevada Creek/little Davis area) that are conducive for good lumber for home construction.

Another consideration is the fact that the small drainages off of Nevada Creek are very steep and any disturbance at all of these areas will create havoc within the natural eco system as it now exists (such as erosion, top soil removal, stream bed upheaval, etc.). The system will just not take this activity.

Continued page 3

Another consideration that you must weigh in your mind is that I have hiked extensively for years throughout this area and have noticed a near pristine quality at the present time. In fact, I am sure some of this area could meet some criteria for wilderness area designation. To have this area logged off would ruin any pristine nature that currently exists.

There are some of us in this state that like to maintain the life as it exists for not only ourselves but for our offspring in the future. To have this area logged off would ruin a lot of people's dreams.

I sincerely hope that you take into consideration the way we feel about the proposed timber sale and do not act in an irrational manner.

One more item I'd like to see in the environmental impact statement is the type of timber stand indicated on any future maps that does exist in each given area. This will allow the forest service to more adequately plan for where the high yield timber now exists. Some of that area up there simply will not produce high yield timber production that would be suitable for home or building construction. That definitely should go in the draft or final environmental impact statement.

I sincerely hope that you take into account the peoples' concern in this area. There are quite a few of us that would like to see this done in a very good and worthwhile manner and we will certainly be monitoring every effort made for logging in that area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Bert Glueckert

Bert Glueckert

4395 Green Acre Drive
Helena, Montana 59601

819 Knight St.
Helena, MT 59601
January 22, 1982

Mr. Jim Mershon, District Ranger
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59634

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I wish to go on record as adamantly opposing the proposed sale and logging of any part of Horsefly Creek, Davis Gulch and Nevada Creek. Although these areas do harbour elk, grizzly, wolverine, and other game and non-game animals, my primary objection relates to the destruction of these scenic ranges and the aesthetic values they offer.

The aftermath of additional logging operations is increased public usage into prestine areas, and the subsequent encroachment on wildlife. The Stemple Pass area offers some of the most scenic panoramic views in Montana for cross country skiers in the winter and backpackers in the summer. Access into these areas should be restricted. Logging roads, whether closed or open, violate the beauty most of us consider unique to Montana.

I urge the Forest Service to close all three proposed areas to any future logging activity.

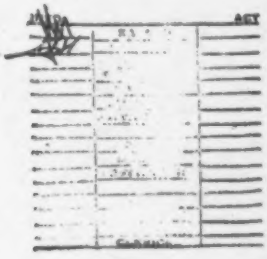
Sincerely,

Greg E. Davis

GED/skw

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 27 '82



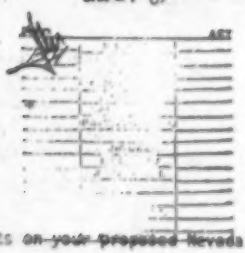
SEELEY LAKE, MONTANA

Stamid MOUNTAIN LUMBER INC.

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

January 25, 1982

JAN 27 '82



District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
Lincoln, Mt. 59639

Dear Sir:

The following are our comments ~~on your proposed~~ Nevada Creek timber sale.

1. The main concern voiced at your public meeting in Helena on January 20, 1982, was not whether timber should be harvested but rather what effect future management of roads constructed would have on the public's access to elk in the drainage. Effective road closures to the general public during hunting season would solve this concern. However, such road closures are very disruptive to the road construction and harvesting activities since this is the best season to gain full production in these activities. A solution would be to let the workersoperate but not allow guns on the job during hunting season.

2. We want to see viable timber sales offered to support the local economy. Timber sales should provide a profit for the timber purchasers and income to federal and county governments. Sale layout, road location and design, are critical elements to a viable sale.

   Roads constructed under the previous timber sale in Nevada Creek should be utilized when possible to reduce costs and provide more volume per mile of new construction. Expensive logging methods should not be required unless it can be proven that conventional methods positively are not adequate.

3. Timber harvest will enhance the available food supply to the elk in Nevada Creek which may provide an opportunity to increase the size of the herd.

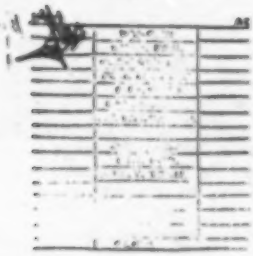
4. We encourage you to proceed with the Nevada Creek timber sale considering the small area impact (approximately 4%) it will have on the entire drainage. Proper sale design to harvest overmature timber while furnishing wildlife protection and enhancement will make this sale an asset to the Nevada Creek drainage.

Yours truly,

Gerald V. Parker, Timber Manager
PYRAMID MOUNTAIN LUMBER, INC.

GVP:bje

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 27 '82



January 25, 1982

Mr. Jim Marshon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Marshon:

The proposed timber sales in the upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas are of particular concern to us.

With the Forest Service subsidizing the necessary road construction, the questionable return on any sale of timber in these areas is too high a price to pay for the loss of the few remaining undisturbed parcels of Helena National Forest available to people in the surrounding communities. With increasing closure of private lands these areas have become invaluable as a source of "quality recreation" whether it be hiking, cross country skiing, or hunting.

Not only are Upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch important to people, but they are vital to the protection and propagation of at least seven wilderness associated species including grizzlies (documented sighting, summer of 1981) and a resident elk herd exceeding 500 animals. Certainly pressure imposed by logging and failure by the Forest Service to effectively close logging roads cannot strengthen the herd's position.

It is our belief that effective forest management should demonstrate a sound balance between environmental and economic considerations. In this case it seems clear to us that all factors indicate the proposed sales should be abandoned and the areas should remain intact.

Sincerely,

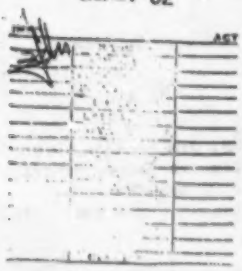
Roselyn K. Duncan
Joseph F. Duncan

Joseph F. Duncan
Roselyn K. Duncan

6 Chaucer
Helena, MT 59601

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 27 '82



David K. Smith
1515 Railroad
Helena, MT 59601

January 27, 1982

Mr. Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
Lincoln, MT 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon,

I attended the open house you sponsored in Helena on Jan. 20, regarding the Nevada Creek, Davis Gulch, and Horsefly timber sales. There was a great deal of concern expressed about roads and the economics of their construction. You covered the economics of their construction quite well when you stated that they would indeed be paid for by future timber sales in the area. But that is exactly what we are concerned about. Apparently you plan to log portions of every ridge in the entire Nevada Creek drainage system. You say the roads will be closed during hunting season. Maybe that's true, but there will be an increase in numbers of hunters. Even if they have to walk from the gate, it is much easier to walk up a road than it is to walk up a ridge. You say that the logged off areas will increase forage for elk. It will also increase the chances for open shots. It seems to me that more hunters and better opportunities for clear shots means the number of elk killed will also increase. Some people may think that's just great--for a while. Until the herd is forced out of the area altogether. They have already been pushed up to the Continental Divide. But where will they have left to go if your plan is implemented? The east side of the Divide, opposite Nevada Creek, has already been heavily logged or burned in the Beartrap fire. No refuge exis's there.

The animal populations in the area are quite healthy right now. I personally feel their continued growth over the past few years is directly related to the quality and size of the habitat they now enjoy. Some of us enjoy the challenge of hunting elk and observing other non-game wildlife on their own, undisturbed, roadless ground. The difficulty is part of the enjoyment. They get away from us quite often--because they have a place to retreat to.

Someone at the meeting said, "Roads don't kill elk--people do." Quite true, I couldn't agree more. Opening up the country and access roads do, however make it much easier for hunters to do that. The Nevada Creek drainage should be left untouched by roads and logging. I am a young man just beginning to raise a family. Let there remain some undisturbed country close to Helena where I can teach my children the pleasures of hunting and hiking as I know it. Let them enjoy the privilege of walking over the top of a ridge and not seeing a road. What will be left for my children's children if every roadless area is logged? Future generations should be considered too!

This nation has been living beyond its means for a long time and its beginning to catch up with us now. Why not help slow things down a little bit?

Thanks for your consideration,

David K. Smith

David K. Smith

THE PROPOSED LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT TIMBER SALES IN NEVADA CREEK DRAINAGE:
COMMENT FROM A HELMVILLE AREA RESIDENT

For all the maps, estimates of saw timber versus products, sales dates, cutting methods, et cetera, one main element remains missing from the body of data necessary for a meaningful Environmental Assessment of the proposed Lincoln Ranger District timber sales, and that is their purpose. With very little demand for wood products and some fragile, roadless territory at issue, it seems unreasonable to go roading and cutting.

I keep wondering what the motivation really is--perhaps the chance to carve up some virgin territory before the budget runs out? To remove the areas forever from consideration as legally roadless? To meet some computer-generated quota or some past political requirement? To spearhead a last-ditch drive for black ink?

Whatever the real rationale for the proposed cuts may be, one thing that does not seem probable as an outcome is improvement or maintenance of the quality of the forests or wildlife habitat in the areas involved. Logged-off mountainsides adjacent to the proposed cuts have shown marginal recovery potential: 10 to 30 percent regrowth performance (and then often only at the edges of the cuts), soil erosion, and diminished wildlife occupancy are among the most obvious and prevalent results of what has already taken place. I see no reason to expect different results when Gleason Creek and the Nevada Creek headwaters areas are logged, especially considering the proposed clearcut acreage and timber volumes.

On another issue, the Blackfoot River near Lincoln is already known to rise and fall much more rapidly nowadays as a result of heavy logging in its watershed. The problem in the Nevada Creek area is that similar water-level fluctuations could take their toll on Nevada Creek Dam. An 11/18/81 letter to me from District Ranger Jim Hershon explains that "although the Forest Service is not directly responsible for the Nevada Dam structure, our activities will not adversely affect it." But just recently, the Army Corps of Engineers listed the same dam as one of Montana's "least safe." Even if that is debatable, should the dam break under heavy runoff following new clearcuts in its drainage who, pray tell, would be responsible? Does Ranger Hershon's reassurance exempt the U.S.Forest Service from liability?

At the risk of pitting one federal bureaucracy against another, thus giving both even that much more justification to continue operations, I feel it is quite appropriate to insist that responsibility for damages in the event of Nevada Creek Dam's failure be established before any more clearcutting is done in its watershed, especially on south-sloping hillsides. I live downstream from the dam, and feel at the least entitled to know where to place my claim should the need arise, and should I survive to place it.

At a more general level, I think a hard look at roading is called for. Beyond the erosion factor, the spread of undesirable plants, and the question of increased access by motorized vehicles, the long-term functions of roads throughout our nation's mountains deserves reevaluation: of what use will they be fifty to a hundred years from now, when there are again enough trees to consider relogging? How much maintenance will be required to make future timber harvests feasible, and at what cost compared to building roads when and if needed, but not until? Don't the roads themselves sacrifice some natural values forever, and sometimes not even for short-term benefits, but for losses?

Finally, is there any real possibility that public input to this EA will have an effect, or is our effort in writing and yours in reading these comments just so much more make-work on the way to doing what is going to be done anyway? My own experience with other government or government-backed projects and the "hearing process" has been discouraging at best, almost always because proponents have been able to cite some variation of the "national interest" rhetoric in support of whatever atrocity they were pushing. But this bunch of timber sales doesn't even have that going for it, unless further flooding of the depressed timber market is considered a public good.

In any case, for once, right here in my own back yard, I'd like to see an exception. The absolutely most sensible thing to do with the remaining unlogged portions of the Nevada Creek drainage is to leave them alone.

Very sincerely,

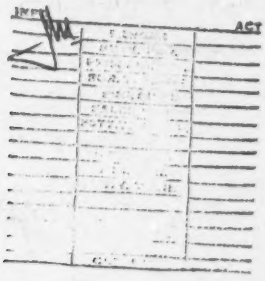
Larry Dodge 1/27/82

Larry Dodge
Helmville, Mt.
59843

17

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT

JAN 29 '82



Jim Mershon
District Ranger
Lincoln Mt

Dear Mr Mershon

I would like to voice my objections to the proposed Upper Nevada Creek & Lewis Creek Timber Sales. I feel that the wildlife, the people involved, and the land itself would be better served if the area remains as it now exists. As you well know, the timber industry is in a great slump right now with little promise of increased demand for lumber in the future. The timber in the areas of concern are marginal at best therefore the economics of sacrificing what we now have in the area for the benefits recieved are very questionable. Regrowth of the logged areas would be slow with reharvest opportunities far off in the future. More than likely the tax payers who oppose this sale would end up subsidizing it if it were to occur by paying for road construction - up to $30,000 per mile.

I really got the impression from the recent Helena meeting that you were a proponent of the sale and could not approach the issue objectively. You acted like it was a natural & logical progression of events to log all unlogged & roadless areas that are left. I strongly object to this philosphy because

Roadless areas are becoming as rare as any other beast on this planet. Once that first road is built that country has lost forever its pristine & unadulterated character.

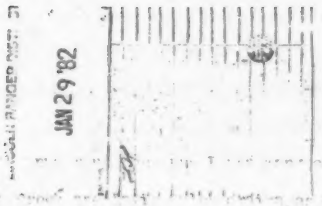
Finally to show that I'm not totally radical, I'd say just put the whole idea on hold for the time being. If things change in the future and the demand (assuming harvest as being economical) exists for timber - reevaluate the situation then. Montana is full of trees - surely we don't need to cut everyone down to feed mills that are shut down to build houses that aren't being built.

Sincerely

Scott Anderson
721 5th
Helena

cc. Max Baucus
Pat Williams

PS: I would like an opportunity to Review the environmental assessment (or EIS) if possible.



Mark Jenko
103 Spencer
Helena

[illegible] planned for the Glacier Creek and Young Mountain areas. I included the latter two [illegible] I feel that these [illegible] in any one of these will affect the [illegible].

[illegible] but rather a former geologist. While I am not trained in the discipline [illegible] management, I do think my training in the natural sciences allows me to make some [illegible] questions about the situation.

I have been active in the outdoors [illegible] developing a deep appreciation for the natural environment. However, I realized that once I finished my geological training and began work in the field my perceptions of and regard for the natural environment had changed. I lost to a great extent my aesthetical appreciation [illegible] and became more willderness oriented. [illegible] I often find myself a victim to falling into such a mind set. That is, because of [illegible] training in developing [illegible] forested land for timber sales I think it becomes very easy for you to see the value of forest land solely in terms of timber producing potential. I hope these [illegible] will encourage you to become [illegible] about the concerns people express [illegible] plans for the areas listed above. Its all too easy to dismiss their concerns [illegible] their [illegible] hunters interested only in protecting their traditional hunting grounds. That [illegible] and take because the issues are far more complex than that. Hopefully, after all the facts are in you will recognize that a plea for you to leave the area entirely alone is totally legitimate and the correct choice as well.

Wildlife

I think we'd all agree that the presence of certain rare species of animals in an area is a [illegible] and general indicator of the "quality" of that area. By "quality" I mean the extent to which an area possesses the kind of prime habitat required for those species to exist. These species are grizzly bear, cougar, wolverine and timber wolf. All require a fairly large expanse

of undisturbed, near wilderness quality habitat for their survival and their mere presence in an area automatically gives it a special uniqueness that sets it apart from the rest.

All of these species are known to exist within the boundaries of the sale areas. The forest service has itself documented grizzly bear sightings (these were never publicized). I have seen cougar, wolverine and evidence strongly suggesting the presence of timber wolves. It's not often that such a diverse group of rare carnivores is found co-existing in anything but the wildest of forestland, and when it does happen it clearly means those areas merit special consideration and treatment.

The sale areas are also known to support an elk herd numbering nearly 800 animals. The herd is of such large size for several reasons. Previous logging has so decimated the nearby cover timber on both sides of the divide that the herd has been forced to concentrate on what range is left. Their survival has been possible partly because the terrain is so difficult to hunt and also because of the numerous parks which exist along the divide and on the south facing slopes of the ridges which extend west from the divide. The parks produce a plentiful supply of forage grasses and thus allow the herd to prosper despite the severe past habitat encroachment. The big game ecosystem is presently intact because the delicate balance between cover and forage was not destroyed. It is a critical situation. Any further loss of cover or forage will inevitably diminish the herd.

It has been argued that the logged areas will eventually be grown in with forage plants and thus be beneficial to big game. The assumption is incorrect for the new forage supply will be produced at the expense of cover timber, and there is none to spare. Also, it seem certain that cattle will be allowed to use the newly opened areas for summer range. This will place cattle in direct competition with elk and ultimately the elk will suffer for cattle will not only graze in the logged off areas but will also graze in the parks. The overall depletion of the forage supply will therefore have a negative impact on the elk herd.

The importance of cover cannot be overemphasized. Elk require a substantial amount of cover timber for security during hunting season and calving time. My own experiences show that these areas lie along the ridge tops and the north facing slopes, places which are slated for cutting. Logging will break these areas up to such an extent that the elk will become more vulnerable than ever before and will have to seek other areas for refuge. Unfortunately there

is nowhere else for them to go. The undisturbed area along the divide is very compact, and the herd is at its limit for geographical expansion. The carnivores are also limited by the small expanse of available habitat. They already have a very tenuous hold on the area and any further logging will drive them to extinction.

The forest service maintains that the security areas left uncut between logged off areas will provide ample cover. This is untrue because such small zones can hold very few animals. When elk or deer are spooked they will leave the timber and have to cross large expanses of open ground to find other refuge in places already occupied by game in the same precarious situation. In transit they are an easy target for hunters. It is unrealistic to expect the herd to survive under such circumstances.

Roads

This topic probably ranks as one of the major concerns for most people. The forest areas selected for cutting are at present essentially unroaded. The absence of easy access on such difficult terrain has significantly contributed to the survival of the elk herd and carnivores. Improved access roads will put both groups in jeopardy since more hunters will more easily be able to reach areas which have become more easily hunted. By being able to stroll through and use small remnants of cover it seems inevitable that the herd will eventually be cropped to a size or below its present level. Another result that stems from all this is that when an elk herd is under a lot of pressure it becomes discouraged from reproducing.

Roading from the top is the worst possible choice. Most hunters are successful when hunting from the top down. Roading from the bottom is the lesser evil, but the impact will still be significant due to the resultant increase in hunting pressure.

Promises of road closures are meaningless. Enforcement is next to impossible and all it takes is one lob hunter to force open a gate and thus allow scores of others to follow. At a cost of $ 20,000 to $30,000 per mile (your figures) many people doubt that the investment would ever be recovered in a reasonable period of time due to the difficult nature of the terrain on which logging would take place. No logging company in its right mind would even consider logging here unless the roads were built and paid for beforehand by the federal government. This means the cost for roads would come out of the taxpayers pocket.

This can hardly be considered prudent fiscal management and amounts to nothing but a case of the public being forced to prop up a depressed timber industry at a time when the public demands fiscal restraint.

Poor Management

Why has the forest service chosen this areaarea for harvest in the first place? I believe that you have through chronic shortsightedness so overcut the available forestland in the northern region without an adequate replanting program that you have literally cut yourselves into a corner. You are going to "the ends of the earth" to find timber and are now forced to cut areas with exceedingly poor regrowth potential at the expense of all else. Looks to me like you have so plundered the publics lands that all you have left is the scraps.

The area in question is very steep and relatively dry. Any attempts at reforestation would surely be thwarted because once the steep sidehills are laid bare, the subsequent accelerated runoff will probably destroy most reseeded trees. The areas lodgepole pine require about 120 years and the douglas fir 80-100 years to reach maturity under normal circumstances. When you consider this with the fact that reforestation is much more difficult following logging on this kind of terrain, it seems likely that a second cut could not be made for possibly 150 years or more. The skimpy regrowth in the 30 year old cuts and the older burns nearby testifies to the reality of this projection. Simply put, a timber harvest here is a one shot deal. This is not exactly my idea of multiple use forest management. You seem willing to sacrifice all other uses of the land in exchange for a single cut of timber.

Conclusions

Stay out of the area and do your logging somewhere, preferrably in places with better regrowth potential and where the wildlife and recreation values are less unique.

And get on the ball with your replanting programs. If the forest is ever to be a renewable resource, planting must be done immediately following cutting, before the thin, fragile soil cover is damaged irreparably. Five years of excessive erosion can damage soils beyond recovery. The government should make it unlawful for mills to purchase timber from private landowners unless they in return guarantee replanting immediately after cutting. And to encourage compliance the government should offer low interest loans for investment in replanting projects in addition to the tax breaks already available.

Don't lose sight of the fact that wildlife is also a valuable natural resource. Their presence can generate a substantial amount of recreation dollars in nearby communities and in this case probably more than all the marginal profits made by those foolishly try to log here.

MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1716, Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 755-3185

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
JAN 29 '82

INFO		ACT
	PLNG. FOR.	
DW	SUPV. FOR.	
	PRE-SALE FOR.	
	FOR. TIMBER MGT.	
	RES. OFFICER	
	CAL. STA.	
	LAKEVIEW D.	
	DISTRICT CLK.	
	S. SEC. O.	
	COMM. SYSTEM	

January 28, 1982

Mr. Bob Gibson
Forest Supervisor
Helena National Forest
Drawer 10014
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Steve Marks, chapter chairman of the MLA's Helena/Lincoln chapter, sent me a news clipping regarding a recent meeting on proposed timber sales in the Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas between Lincoln and Helena. It is an unfortunate fact of life that the nature of logging will never be acceptable to various members of society who wish to restrict timber harvesting in their favorite retreats within the national forest system.

Most concerned citizens agree that we need to manage our forests to produce timber, wildlife and recreation; however, most would also prefer that logging activity take place in someone else's favorite hunting spot. In an effort at compromise, the Forest Service, through the RARE II process, recommended certain areas for inclusion in the wilderness system. Whereas, the Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas were not recommended for wilderness designation, they are an integral part of the commercial timber base of the Helena National Forest. For this reason, we respectfully implore you to proceed with your timber harvesting plans for these areas.

Professional land managers realize that logging activity represents a short-term silvicultural application to a long-term, renewable resource. Properly administered, logging will not inflict negative consequences upon wildlife or the environment. We sympathize with your plight in conveying this message to those who are primarily concerned with their own priority for specific land areas.

The numerous forest use studies of the past decade have resulted in a compromise which has left few people on either side of the controversy totally satisfied. For those of you who have had to absorb the wrath of industry as well as the preservationists, the battle of implementing a balanced timber harvest program goes on! In this endeavor, we convey our best wishes as well as our sympathy.

Respectfully Yours,

Keith L. Olson
Executive Director

c.c. Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District

Steve Marks

Susan Graveley. called as witness to comment on Upper Klamath Timber Sale.

She and her husband Steve are ranchers in the Klamath Valley. Susan is on the board of directors of the water users association.

Was concerned about the Corp of Engineers report on the condition of the Klamath Dam.

Logging on private land is the damage has already had a major impact on the water stand.

Concerned about increased runoff on surface gradients.

Did really want to see the [illegible] of the watershed.

Bert Mennix
Helmville MT
793-5657

Called on 1/29/82 about upper Ahrens T.S.

Rancher in Helmville Valley
Believes in harvesting timber
Concerned about possible adverse size - felt cuts in Chicken
[illegible] are too big.
Has [illegible] is with passive stuff on the watershed.

LLA

Jack Skaal
Helmville

Called about the Upper Double Timber sale. Concern over effects on wetland.

1/30/82

Phone conversation with Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kelley
- ranch owners in Nevada Creek

1. Opposed to the timber sale
2. Concerns
   - scrubby timber - is the timber of any value?
   - erosion problems after harvest
   - increased water will advise flooding, stream channel degradation, damage Nev. Res. and bank
   - against clearcutting
   - regenerating sites of intense solar loads

Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 2[illegible]
Lincoln, Mt.

2-80-81

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you in response to your proposed plan to log the Upper Nevada Creek area. I attended the public meeting held by Lincoln District Ranger Jim Mershon the third week of January. Mr. Mershon seemed surprised at the number of sportsman interested in the Upper Nevada Creek area. Out of the 70 people attending the meeting, I would say at least 60 were opposed to logging in this area. Davis Gulch and Horse Fly timber sales were mentioned very little.

I was in the area of Upper Nevada Creek ~~area~~ for the first time last fall during hunting season. The area is very steep, especially at the top of the drainage. From the top of the Continental Divide I could see logging areas in every drainage except for Upper Nevada Creek. If you're going to log in this country, why not go where roads already exist and stub roads off of these? The expense of building new roads at $20,000 - 30,000 per mile will not be offset by the $2, to $3 per thousand the Forest Service will be paid

for the 5 million board feet of timber that will be first taken out of the area. We as taxpayers will subsidize the road building. The building of roads in this drainage will also increase erosion in Nevada Creek and help fill Nevada Creek Reservoir prematurely.

A substantial number of elk, 500 to 800 head, reside in this roadless area. Elk need isolation from human contact to prosper. Personally, I think it is much easier for deer to adapt to human encroachment. This elk herd provides recreational hunting for hundreds of people from the Lincoln, Elliston, Avon, and Helena areas. The elk of there because of the lack of roads. I think it is crucial to maintain a roadless area on the Continental Divide to support this elk herd.

In conclusion, I think that there are enough negative impacts resulting from logging this area of Upper Nevada to keep this timber sale out. Just look at the 14 concerns listed in your mailing dated JAN. 28th and you will see only one positive

statement or rationalization for logging this drainage. That is number 3, increasing the timber base for production in the Helena National Forest. Do you have to road and log every drainage in the Helena National Forest? I think sportsman deserve some weight in the Forest Service Multiple Use concept. The other 13 concerns listed in the mailing are negative impacts on the area. Please leave Upper Nevada Creek as it is and log other areas of the Helena National Forest that have already been impacted. And try to log areas that are economically feasible for the Forest Service. Personally, I'm tired of spending my tax dollars to subsidize building roads in ~~formerly~~ formerly roadless areas.

Sincerely,
Barry Masterson

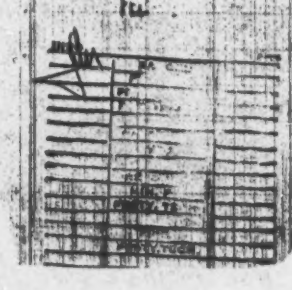
418 Arrowhead Trail
Bozeman, Mont 59715

Mr. Jim Marshall
District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Mont. 59639

Dear Mr. Marshall

I am writing to express my concern about your proposal for logging in the Upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch timber sale areas.

I have been in those areas numerous times over the past twelve years, primarily hunting but also throughout the year. I do not believe that the timber available justifies the cost to the public of opening up the area and the subsequent loss of wildlife habitat.



Sincerely

Robert T. Hill

Robert T. Hill

January 29, 1982

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 1 '82
INITIAL ACT
RANGER
SUPV. FOR.
PRE-SALE FOR.
FOR. TIMBER
FOR. SILVI.
SALES ADM.
WSTY. TECH. SPEC.
RESOURCE
MIN. FOR.
WSTY. TECH.
CLERICAL

Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, MT 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

This letter is to express my opposition to the proposed timber sales in the Davis Gulch and Nevada Creek areas of the Helena National Forest. This area is inhabited by various species of wildlife that would be disrupted by timber harvesting. The long term impact of road development is almost certain to effect wildlife due to increased use by all.

Past enforcement of road closures has been inadequate and it is doubtful that improvements can be made with reduced manpower and budget cutting. The value and reforestation of these areas is questionable. My understanding is that access roads could very well exceed the proposed sales in terms of cost. I also fail to see a need for the proposals due to present depressed housing markets.

My understanding of the concept of National forest management is to provide multiple-use. I feel this concept should be extended to the use of the majority of the people, not just a few who stand to profit from a given use. There are hikers, hunters, skiers and snowmobilers who use this area and to ignore their input would only contrary to our national laws.

I hope that the local USFS office will consider everyone's input on this matter and act accordingly. Thank you.

James C. McCauley
6146 Hwy. 12 W.
Helena, MT

District Ranger
Lincoln District
Helena National Forest
Lincoln, Montana

Dear Sir,

I am Mark Meloy, chairman of the Elkhorn Citizen Organization of Helena. I understand that you are considering public input concerning the proposed timber cuts on the continental divide near Stemple Pass. I know very little about the specific sales and desire to know more. Inasmuch as you need informed public comment which I might provide, please send along relevant documents and inform me of future meetings in the decision making process. I represent a conservation organization with a large constituency in the Helena area which generally does not oppose timber harvesting, but believes that subh harvesting must be considerate of needs of wildlife and related recreation. Without adequate consideration of those needs, my organization will find grounds for opposition to the proposals for timber harvest in these areas. In short, my resources are at your service.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Meloy

Mark Meloy

Elkhorn Citizen Organization
512 Pine Street
Helena, Montana 59601

3139 Chaucer
Helena, Montana 59601

FEB 1 '82

January 28, 1982

Mr. Jim Marshon
District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Marshon:

I am concerned with proposed timber sales in Upper Nevada Creek, Davis Gulch, and Horsefly Creek areas. I attended the open house on Wednesday, January 20, 1982. I was not very pleased with your answers given to valid questions such as: where trees will be cut, where roads will be built, probable long-range plans for total number of trees cut over how many years, and how endangered species such as wolf and grizzly bear will be taken into account in the plan, not to mention the extensive herd of elk in the area.

Invariably your answer seemed to be "we haven't planned or evaluated that yet." My questions are, how can you and your team write an environmental assessment to be completed this spring if you don't have an accurate idea of the types and amounts of vegetation, soil, trees, and wildlife in the area, and don't have a basic development plan in mind? How can you assess the impact roads will make if you don't know where you will put the roads? The feeling is that either you have a plan and you are not being up-front with the public (I understand that the Forest Service is a public agency and these are public lands), or you don't have a plan and you are going to guess at the environmental impact. I don't like either suggestion.

One of the things you did state at the open house was the approximate cost of roads, $20,000 to $30,000 per mile, a cost to be amortized over about twenty (20) years. This means to me that development will be ongoing for at least twenty years to cover the investment. Also, you said that the timber in these areas is not prime. Why then should so many dollars be spent and such an extensive development be considered for second rate timber? There are surrounding areas in which development has begun that must have equal or better timber to harvest. Economically it seems to make sense to harvest timber elsewhere.

You also stated at the meeting that you have leased a major portion of these areas to oil and gas concerns. Since, as you stated, there is more money to be made in oil and gas than from timber, could it be possible that you are not so interested in building roads to harvest timber, but to expedite oil and gas exploration? I hope this is not the case, but by not explaining completely your timber development plans, you leave room for speculation.

I have spent time in these areas hiking and skiing. It is my opinion that these areas along the Continental Divide, lands now untouched by development, are a perfect habitat, left as-is, for wildlife and humans alike. The wildlife are thriving at the heads of these drainages. The forest stands and lack of roads provide the cover needed and isolation required for reproduction. Also, most lower elevation areas have been developed so that the wildlife has moved up to the divide - as high as it can go. People, myself, and I hope you now realize, many hundreds more enjoy these lands for all types of recreation without the benefit of roads. Roadless areas such as these designated in RARE II, Wilderness designations and the like make up only 7% of the land in Montana. This leaves 93% for development. Isn't that enough?

I hope you will consider my wishes, to keep these areas as they exist today for the benefit of wildlife and enjoyment by ours and future generations, as important and also representative of hundreds of others. I would like to be kept informed as to the progress of this environmental assessment and any future plans for these areas. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter. Done 2/2/82 201

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Wevers

CLW/ljc

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Pat Williams
Honorable John Melcher

2/1/82

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 3 '82

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I attended the public meeting you held in Helena regarding proposed timber sales in Upper Nevada Creek, Davis Gulch, and Horsefly.

I would like to ask that you seriously consider leaving some of these areas roadless. I believe the Upper Nevada area that is roadless now is especially significant to a large herd of elk, for security reasons. It is tough enough country that, without roads and logging, the elk have an important sanctuary against overhunting. Some are killed by hunters willing to work, but without the opening up brought about by timber sales, the area will always hold elk. I believe this is of great value to have such an elk stronghold within a reasonable distance of a population center such as Helena. I do not believe the value of the timber in those upper, inaccessible areas will even come close to making

it worthwhile to sacrifice their uniqueness by opening them up. Their special significance to wildlife and recreation is simply too great to risk a chance of losing.

I believe some of the lower areas already accessible by roads could be logged without seriously damaging the area; in fact, it might even improve the winter range to have some of the lower areas logged.

I do not believe there is any chance of controlling the roads once they are put in — there will always be horses, motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATV's, etc. that will be given far too much access into areas which, without development, would be safe from being overrun.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Sherman
1724 Jerome Place
Helena

3078 Howard Rd,
East Helena, Montana 59635

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 4 '82
INFO ACT
RANGER
FISH, WILD.
MINERALS
RECREATION
ENGR.
SALES
FORTY TECH.
CLERICAL

January 28, 1982

Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

I am submitting the following statement for and on behalf of the Prickly Pear Sportsmen. We are a group of over 200 individuals from the Helena area with common interests in hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

Many of our activities depend on public lands therefore, we are very interested in how these lands are to be managed especially wildlife, water and recreation. We strongly believe in the multiple use concept for our national forests and support reasonable and economic timber harvest.

Regarding your proposed timber sales in the Upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch areas, we seriously question your plans and priorities and are concerned about the future of the abundant wildlife in these areas. We do not want to see these small tracts of critical wildlife security and habitat roaded and permanently changed.

Where as logging in itself is not necessarily harmful to wildlife(sometimes beneficial), it is the haul roads left open that increase access and push elk and other wildlife out of their strongholds. Since there is no strong enforcable policy or guarantee regarding road closures, we are very pessimistic about the continued survival of these animals. Also, it is our understanding that these sales could very possibly be deficit sales when matching road costs against timber revenues. This is not good business, it increases the burden on taxpayers and is not in keeping with the present attempts to reduce welfare.

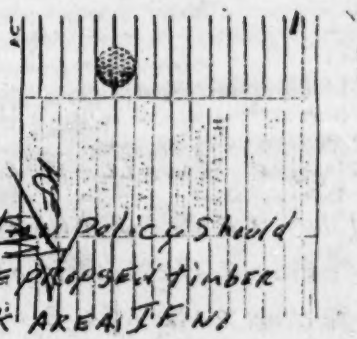
All things considerd, the facts and situations pertaining to your proposals are such that we as a local sportsmen group oppose these sales. We feel that in this case wildlife and recreation values are far more important than logging and roading of these backcountry areas. These units should be pulled out of the timber base and managed in their present natural state.

Please consider our comments and recommendations. Thank you.

Cordially yours,

A. W. (Bud) Elwell

Bud Elwell, president



FEB 4 '82

DEAR MR. Smith,

I THINK THE NO ACTION POLICY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ALL THE PROPOSED TIMBER SALES IN THE NEVADA CREEK AREA. IF NO ACTION MEANS NO LOGGING. I AM ALL FOR NO ACTION.

I don't believe Thats its NECESSARY to have A Logging Road up EVERY drainge in the State.

It is my belief that there Should be Some places LEFT UNROADED other than WILDERNESS. FOR the PRESEVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES I Think it is high time we started to PRESERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES instead OF Exploting THEM, I ALWAYS Thought the FOREST SERVICE WAS A CONSERVATION AGENCY, But FROM what I HAVE SEEN YOU SEEM to be ANYTHING but.

LET ME QUOTE Andy RUSSELL Author OF Grizzly COUNTRY. This PASSAGE is TAKEN From his book HORN'S IN THE High COUNTRY. From Chapter 9. HE SAYS Back between 1950 and 1960 what had been Some OF the FINEST MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS IN THE World, WAS TORN OPEN and DESECRATED by OIL and MINERAL EXPLORATION with ROADS and SEISMIC LINES Cutting it to Ribbons. It WAS A particularly Sad Thing FOR US to watch, FOR WE WERE intimately ACQUAINTED with About EVERY SQUARE YARD OF The AREA Lying between BANFF and Waterton LAKES National PARKS, and Then WEST to the FLATHEAD RIVER. With the EXCEPTION OF

OF ONE SMALL PIECE OF MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS IN THE EXTREME SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BRITISH COLOMBIA IN THE FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE SYSTEM, IT WAS ALL GONE CHEWED UP BY THE MUCH LAUDED "MULTIPLE USE" PROGRAM WHICH THE POLITICAINS CLAIMED WAS FAIR, BECAUSE BY THIS PROGRAMING EVERYONE IS SUPPOSED TO GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE RECREATIONAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES INSTEAD OF ONLY A FEW. IN REALITY, THE ONLY POEPLE THAT MADE ANY PROFIT FROM THE TRADE WERE THE OIL, TIMBER AND COAL INTERESTS. FOR AWHILE THE NEW ROAD SYSTEMS AFORDED FISHERMAN AND HUNTERS BAG LIMIT BONANZAS, BUT THEN THE SUCCESS RATIO SANK WITH SICKENING SPEED.

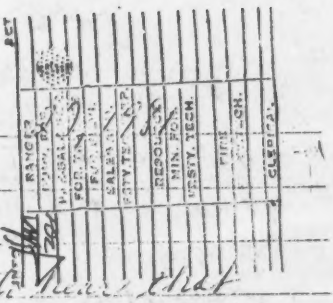
AT FIRST ~~VERY~~ VERY FEW PEOPLE KNEW OF OR CARED ABOUT THE FACT THAT ANY GIVEN PIECE OF COUNTRY CAN ONLY STAND SO MUCH INDUSTRIAL PRESSURE BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT IS DAMAGED TO THE POINT OF YIELDING ONLY A FRACTION OF ITS NORMAL PRODUCTION. NOBODY REALIZED THAT PREVENTION IS VASTLY LESS COSTLY THAN REPAIRS AFTER THE DAMAGE IS DONE - EVEN IF REPAIRS ARE POSSIBLE, WHICH IS TOO OFTEN NOT THE CASE. TO MESS UP A PIECE OF COUNTRY, BEYOND REDEMPTION IS EASY; RESTORATION IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE!

Now I realize that this is quite lengthy. But I believe there is a message here for all of us. I wanted to paint a picture of what happened to some of the most beautiful country a person could ever see. But will never see again in its natural state. It is a crime a crime against nature and it should not be allowed to happen to any area regardless of the monetary value. This happened in Canada. I would hate to see it happen to the ~~Head~~ upper Nevada Creek area.

Sincerely

Chuck Doering

Chuck Doering
4668 Head Drive
Helena, MT. 59601



LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
FEB 3 '82

January

Dear Mr Jim Fresher

I am very displeased to hear that a timber sale will be conducted on the upper Nevada Creek drainage system. Being a person who enjoys the outdoors, the impact that will result from this timber harvest. Presently this area is the home of many wildlife consisting of a large elk herd, plentyful deer, & other species such as bear, mountain lion & wolverine. This harvest will open up much of mountain country causing problems which could arise during spring runoff, drive the elk herd completly out of there by disturbing their natural habitat.

It is truly ashame if this area is logged & roads are open into this

pristine area. It is used by people here in Helena + should be left undisturbed for all to enjoy.

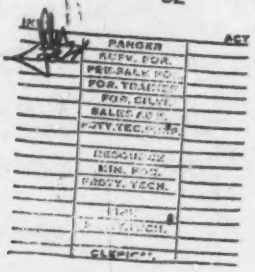
Thank you for your time + please reconsider this proposal

Sincerely yours
Richard Fabiano
836 8th Ave
Helena Montana

1080

621 Second St
Helena, Montana 59601

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 5 '82



February 4, 1982

Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

RE: EA on Upper Nevada Creek, Horsefly and Davis Gulch proposed timber sales.

There has been a number of concerns expressed regarding these particular sales on your district. In order to avoid redundancy, let it suffice to say that I concur with all of those issues raised so far which question the need, impacts and potential damages of these sales. However, I would like to discuss a few other relevant points at this time.

At your open house in Helena you were quite open about future development for these areas <u>after</u> these sales. When roads are amortized over 20 years there is no doubt that there will be other major activities associated with these roads in the future. It seems to then that you are obviously promoting long range timber harvest, mining, motorized recreation and oil and gas development and virtually ignoring long range wildlife, watershed and dispersed recreation objectives. Are the roads and developments planned for these area part of the intentional conspiracy to access and impact inventoried roadless areas to permanently exclude them from further wilderness consideration? It seems to me that Forest Service could very easily leave an area in its present state without managing it to death. I strongly feel that these areas be left alone especially the Upper Nevada Creek tract.

You say that the EA will address the basic issue- whether to log these areas or not. It was stated that different alternatives will be examined ranging between the " two extremes" - total development or no action. Why is "no action" considered an extreme? There appears to be a bias already.

Also at the open house, it was brought up about the benefits of transitory range to wildlife. In many cases this may be true but not in these areas. For the most part, we are talking about islands of forest(security) surrounded by open productive summer forage areas. Logging at higher elevations, as proposed, would do nothing to improve critical winter range which is the key to wildlife survival(big game).

It was stated that <u>all</u> areas outside of designated Wilderness areas are in the Helena National Forest's timber base. This indicates to me that: 1. timber harvest is top priority, 2. this is not good timber producing country and 3. harvest quotas are too high. Regarding the third point, it is

known, stated fact that Assistant Secretary Crowell will implement all necessary means to double the cut on national forest lands within the next few years. His directive will certainly affect the Helena National Forest. As a matter of fact, I have recently heard plans to cut 30mmbf on the Helena in the near future. The point is, the HNF and your district is or will be pressured to substantially increase harvest and to log areas that should have other management priorities.

After reviewing the facts, issues and public concerns(overwhelming) pertaining to these proposed sales, I must, in all rationality, go on record as opposing them. Additional, I wish to make a few recommendations:

1. A moritorium on timber cutting be seriously considered for these areas. These proposals should be evaluated and incorporated into the overall Forest Management Plan rather than continue with this piecemeal approach.

2. The top priority should be wildlife management for these areas. Further studies should be initiated to find out what increased development(permanent) will do certain species, i.e. elk & grizzly.

3. If the previous two reccomendations are rejected then, in all fairness to the resource, an EIS should be drafted on the impacts of logging, oil and gas and mining to the area.

I ask that you please address my questions, comments and recommendations in your EA. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

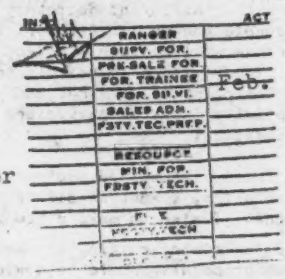
Thomas T Greason

Thomas T Greason

cc Forest Supervisor Bob Gibson

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 8 '82

Wickes Forest Industries
A Division of The Wickes Corporation
POST OFFICE DRAWER P
TOWNSEND, MONTANA 59644



Feb. 5, 1982

Mr. Jim Merschon, District Ranger
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Lincoln Ranger District
Lincoln, MT. 59639

Dear Mr. Merschon:

The Jan. 20th public meeting in Helena concerning the forth coming potential timber sales was interesting and I greatly appreciated the invitation.

I was favorably impressed with your responses to many of the statements that had confused fact and fiction. Quite often, at these meetings, people become emotional and many untrue statements are made without the moderator attempting to share the correct responses with the participants. This can result in many people leaving even more misinformed or confused.

I would like to know how much weight will be placed on the responses from the non-development people in the Helena area? I believe this input could be over exagerated, due to the fact they are so well organized. Many people have the idea that even if an area was not chosen for wilderness under Rare II studies, it would be open for consideration. Will the time ever come when we will not have to apologize for sensible management of our resources?

I am a fourth generation Montanan and a graduate forester. We are rapidly reaching a situation that will have serious economic implications for much of the future timber industry. An example of this is the accelerated harvest on the small percentage of available private lands, meaning greater dependency on public lands and less timber and growing stock being managed in a reasonable manner. The results are tremendous losses in growth potential by over mature and/or overstocked stands, also greater mortality due to insect and disease. The heavy fuel loading will set the stage for future uncontrolled burns creating greater danger to watersheds. Why are these points so often ignored while Mr. elk and visual esthetics seem to have priority? Perhaps the problem could be we have even lost the right to be hungry if we do not produce.

The suggestions that more road management programs for all new roads and more lower specification, weather permitting type roads would be better for both sides.

I strongly feel you should proceed and prepare the "Upper Nevada Creek Timber Sale", "Davis Gulch Post and Pole Sale" and the "Horsefly Post and Pole Sale" if at all possible. My one recommendation is to increase the volume cut as large as possible and have longer quiet periods between harvesting intervals. This would minimize many of the problems of constant activity and be easier on the wildlife.

I would certainly appreciate being informed of your progress as your statements develop.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Wickes Forest Industries

John E Bruns

John E. Bruns, Logging Supervisor

JEB/mg

BLACKFOOT TREATING PLANT, INC.
BOX 304
LINCOLN, MONTANA 59639

Lincoln Ranger Station
Box 234
Lincoln, MT. 59639

Lincoln Ranger Station:

This letter is in response to the proposed timber sales in Upper Nevada, Davis Gulch, and Horse Fly Creek.

Being in the post and log business we need timber to operate, its as simple as that. These areas contain alot of lodgepole that is thick and stunted as far as growth. They should be harvested.

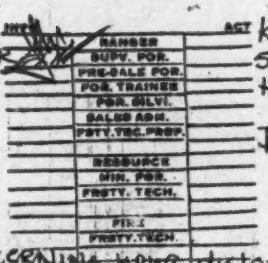
Available timber is getting harder to find. These proposed sales are vital at this time to maintain a healthy timber industry in this area.

Sincerely,
Donald Biresch
Gerald Biresch pres.
Blackfoot Treating Plant Inc.
Lincoln Log Cabins Inc.

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 8 '82

FEB 8 '82

Jim Mershon, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, MT 59639



Ken Knudson
523 Brecken Ridge
Helena, MT 59601

Feb. 4, 1982

Dear Mr Mershon:

I am writing concerning your district's proposed upper Nevada and Davis Gulch timber sales. As you suggested at the January 20th meeting in Helena, I am writing "for the record" concerning my opposition to any access roads being placed within these presently roadless areas.

Since the majority of these areas provides substantial security for a very large elk herd, as well as other species of special concern such as grizzly bear, pine martin, wolverine and mountain lion; and since timely marketable timber is quite scarce, it would seem that under the multiple use concept for managing public lands, wildlife should be given priority over timber harvest in these areas. I'm not necessarily suggesting that these areas be taken out of your district's "timber base", but rather that they be managed to maximize their value as a "wildlife habitat base."

I realize that there are presently few working examples within your agency of such special Wildlife Management Areas. I would request, however, that you explore this as a possible management scheme for upper Nevada Creek and Davis Gulch. Perhaps the best way to start developing a basis for this type of management would be to compare the economics of elk and other wildlife production versus timber production within these 11,000 acres on a sustained yield basis. It would seem that the need for such a dollar for dollar comparison could well be one of the conclusions of your EA.

I look forward to hearing from you concerning any further happenings with these proposals including, of course, the draft EA. If at any time you feel the need to establish any form of citizen working group concerning these proposals, feel free to call on me.

Best Regards,

Ken Knudson

421 Breckenridge
Helena, Montana
59601

February 8, 1982

LINCOLN RANGER
FEB 10 '82

Mr. Jim Mershon
District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
Helena National Forest
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

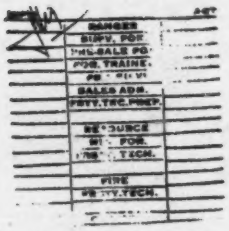
I wish to call your attention, and that of your EA team, to the enclosed article which appeared in the Helena Independent Record Sunday, February 7. It is particularly relevant to the arguments of many of those concerned sportsmen, including myself, who are objecting to the logging proposed for upper Nevada Creek. The area, due to its undisturbed, inaccessible nature, contains a substantial population of trophy bull elk and mule deer. In light of Lonner's arguments, wildlife resources should be given the dominant resource allocation in this area. As he suggests (and I concur) there is much more to elk hunting than merely killing an animal. Many of us prefer to pit ourselves against a wise old animal in his backyard than to knock down a spike adjacent to a road. Quality hunting experiences require quality, undisturbed habitat! Please give Lonner's study results due consideration when completing the EA's.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingman

920 Breckenridge
Helena, MT 59601
Jan. 28, 1982

LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT
FEB 9 '82



Mr. Jim Mershon
District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District
P.O. Box 234
Lincoln, MT 59639

Dear Mr. Mershon:

Please accept these comments concerning the Davis Gulch-Upper Nevada Creek proposed timber sales.

The area of concern consists of more than 60,000 presently unroad acres within a very short driving distance of a large population center. Surrounded by heavily roaded and disturbed forest, the proposed timber sale units provide high quality wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The Forest Service's proposal to log this area is an affirmation that they do not recognize any higher value than logging for an area, except for oil and gas development. To further claim as justification for logging this or any roadless area that you have been "locked-out" of the Oaks of the Mountain Wilderness Area and recommended additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area is not only misleading and inflammatory but a disgrace to Forest Service tradition.

If the Forest Service cannot manage timber efficiently on the 75% of Helena National Forest open to development, how can you possibly claim that the few small roadless areas remaining outside of designated wilderness will make a significant difference? The future of timber management on National Forest Service lands depends upon regenerating already cut stands and developing sustained yields, not upon roading and cutting every roadless area.

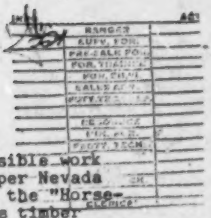
Record me as opposed to the roading and timbering of the Davis Gulch and Upper Nevada Creek area.

Sincerely,
Rosemarie Rowe

cc: Senator Max Baucus
cc: Congressman Pat Williams

LINCOLN RANGER DIST. V

FEB 5'82



To: Mr. Jim Merschon, District Ranger
U.S.F.S., Department of Agriculture
Lincoln Ranger District
Lincoln, MT. 59639

The undersigned are concerned and desire to have all the possible work and preparation be done that is necessary to present the "Upper Nevada Creek Timber Sale", the "Davis Gulch Post and Pole Sale" and the "Horse-fly Post and Pole Sales" for bid to the public. We need this timber resource as well as have the existing stand placed back to healthy growth.

NAME	ADDRESS		DATE
Ted M Lawrence	Box 190	Townsend	2-1-82
Jenny Lawrence	Box 190	Townsend	2-1-82
Eunice Lawrence	Route 1	Box 103	2-1-82
Delany Mallard	Box 443	Townsend	2-1-82
George Smith	Box 357	Townsend	2-2-82
Ron Cheever	Box 208	Townsend	2/2/82
Mary Cheever	Box 208	Townsend	2/2/82
Andrew Kerr	Box 901	Townsend	2/2/82
Les Dean	Box 346	Townsend	2/2/82
Arvid Mattson	Box 606	Townsend	2/2/82
Richard Anderson	Box 397	Townsend	2/2/82
Mark L Myers	Box 41	Townsend	2/2/82
Carroll Johnson	Box 1186	Townsend	2/2/82
Ben Ryder	Box 915	Townsend	2-2-82
John Eckland	Box 299	Townsend	2-2-82
Jane D Tunnell	Box 43	Townsend	2-2-82
Jerry A Zellinger	Box 223	Townsend	2-2-82
William Isenhart	Box 475	Townsend	2-2-82
Lenore A Karhoff	310 S Maple	Townsend	2-2-82
Robert L Wilkie	RR Box 9A	Townsend	2-2-82
Velaina Hutchins	Box 563	Townsend	2-2-82
Melbourne Nettuf	Box 417	Townsend Mt	2-2-82
Lillian Bruden	Box 578	Townsend Mt.	2-2-82
Bill Seybert	Box 276	Whitehall, MT.	2-2-82
Hoida Sawyer	Box 204	Townsend Mt	2-2-82
Myrtle M. Greenman	Box 154	Townsend, Mt.	2-2-82
William E Erickson	6785 Duluth	Helena, Mont	2-2-82

July 10, 1983
207 South Third Apt. 1A
Bozeman, MT 59715

Senator John Melcher
Butte Field Office
55 West Granite Street
Butte, MT 59701

Senator Melcher:

I was unable to attend the hearing in Anaconda, Montana concerning the RARE II issue, but I am writing to you in hopes you will submit this letter to the hearing record.

This problem needs to be resolved as fairly and as soon as possible. I support the Alternative W proposal and soft-release language. We've spent too much time and money making this decision, at the expense of not only people, but wildlife. The next generation of Montanans deserve more.

Sincerely,

Mary Zielarth

Mary Zielarth

FAR

2110 Bradbrook Court
Billings, Montana 59102

July 3, 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 West Granite Street
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Sir:

Inasmuch as I cannot attend the hearing to be held at Anaconda July 7, 1983, please include this statement in the hearing record of the "omnibus wilderness bill."

I first came to Montana in 1939 when I began work on the railroad between Pocatello, Idaho, and Butte, Montana. After service in World War II, I became familiar again with southwestern Montana. In 1970 I moved to Billings but have still maintained my interest and have travelled extensively over the state.

The proposed West Big Hole, West Pioneer, East Pioneer, and Mussigbord-Howell Creek wilderness areas are important for the Big Hole River fishery. I have seen the Big Hole get to a mighty low flow, especially in late summer, and this doesn't do the fishery any good. If protected from logging--much of which doesn't really "pay" when one considers the "subsidized road building" that will go along with it--the Big Hole stream flow ought to get no worse than it is.

Conflict with wilderness goes a long way back. For one thing, it is the only land-use that can be reversed. That alone should make it important. You can always take an area out of wilderness, but you can't put it back in! Montana is the last of the splendors! Wilderness is important to the visitor, to the hunter, to the fisherman, the outfitter. We need a timber base, but why cut timber that takes 300 years to regenerate? Wilderness is the highest and best use of these areas. The many conservation organizations have made studies of their own, and for want of a better title have called these "Alternative W." This I support.

Unfortunately, I am getting a little old to put a 40-pound pack on my back and trot off. But that doesn't mean because I can't do all I used to that I want to forget it. I've been involved with this all my adult life and I've worked at it too long to see it gone! Future generations will be here to experience something unique if we protect it. Unfortunately administrative protection is not enough--it's too easy to reverse--and that is why we must have this necessary legislation.

One other point: The present administration wants release language in the bill that will prevent--ever again--the lands not so chosen from being considered for wilderness. I believe this to be short sighted. Instead, I favor, if any release language is used at all, the kind of timed release that will hold in abeyance for 15 years further consideration as wilderness. I believe this is termed "soft release" versus the "hard release" of the administration.

Very truly yours,

James Phelps

JAMES PHELPS

CC: Sen. Max Baucus
Rep. Ron Marlenee
Rep. Pat Williams

copy to Senator Melcher's
Washington office ✓

2110 Bradbrook Court
Billings, Montana 59102

July 18, 1983

Senator John Melcher
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Dear Sir:

Please include the following comments to be included in the hearing record on the "omnibus wilderness bill." These comments pertain to southeastern Montana; I submitted comments to your Missoula office for areas in southwestern Montana that I have interest.

The "Tongue River Breaks" deserves protection. The area is the only example of "eastern ponderosa forest" to be considered in the Rare II recommendations. The label "eastern ponderosa forest" is somewhat of a misnomer. A. W. Kuchler, when he prepared his "Potential Natural Vegetation Map" in 1966 for the USDI Geological Survey, must have been aware of the geographical range of the ponderosa pine, a truly western tree. The "Tongue River Breaks" represents an area in the "eastern" portion of the range of this great western tree.

Ponderosa pine, in its "eastern" range, is an altogether different tree than it is west of the Continental Divide. It isn't the big spectacular species it is in western Montana or on the east slope of the Cascades. Without thinking, one could say we have lots of scrub pine in our parts. But there is a little more to it than that! There is a lot going for the idea that, in protecting different natural areas, we should try for at least one of each "kind." The "Tongue River Breaks" provides this.

The site scored high on wilderness values, too. It does have coal possibilities, however; not on the "breaks" itself under present mining methods but in the vicinity. This is probably the reason it was dropped from consideration for wilderness. However, I believe the other considerations outlined above outweigh the coal company objections.

A word is in order about the idea advanced by A. W. Kuchler when he drafted his "potential natural vegetation" (PNV) map. Kuchler, then of the University of Kansas, along with R. G. Bailey of the Forest Service, are as good as any that I know of when it comes to talking about the kinds of land forms, vegetation, and allied knowledge. We have this "eastern ponderosa forest" in the Bull Mountains and some of the other isolated ranges in Montana, but in no other location besides the "Tongue River Breaks" has a suitable area been proposed for protection. We need to preserve "samples" of the different areas. Some we have many protected; some we don't--and this is one.

The other area I would recommend is "Lost Water Canyon" in the Pryor Mountains. It is a wild inaccessible canyon that will go well with the BLM and National Park proposals for land use. The fact that different agencies "own" or "control" land on a map should not be a bar to a comprehensive "land use plan" if the boundaries thereby included form a natural and unique area. One feature that would be included is the "Big Ice Cave." The Pryor Mountains at this time are little known and in fact overlooked. Now is the time to get this area into protection. The Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area is to the east, separated from the "Lost Water Canyon," which is in the Custer National Forest, by some Bureau of Land Management land. All of it should be managed for protection and down the road we would have quite a wonderful piece of land, not too far from a city of 100,000 plus projected by the year 2000 to be twice that.

Very truly yours,

James Phelps

JAMES PHELPS

cc: Senator Max Baucus
Representative Ron Marlenee
Representative Pat Williams

July 15, 1983

FR

Dear Senator John Meltcher:

I am opposed to Wilderness for the West Big Hole in the Beaverhead Mtns.

But I am not opposed to wilderness in the West Pioneers. The West Pioneers as yet are not already cut up and roads everywhere.

Please support sufficiant Legislation to prevent a Rare III.

lease add this letter to the Public hearing record held in Anaconda, MT on July 7, 1983.

Thank you

Marian Smith
Wisdom, MT 59761

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
U.S. CONGRESS
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Melcher,

I regret missing -the important hearings on wilderness just the past week, but professional work took me from Montana where I would have preferred to be.

Although I do not use the wilderness, partly from age, I am concerned that southwestern M ontana wild places be preserved, in particular the Pioneer mountains both east and west areas, the West -Big Hole and the Mussigbrod-Howell Creek area, all lovely, all too good to turn into Wyoming's junky Rock Creek to Casper area at this time. We do have oil in the ground in many places, but the haste to explore is misplaced value, and unreasonable fear of environmentalists who will support mineral exploration when there is more real shortages of fuel, more planning on how to care for wilderness and its rich animal and plant life.

I am sure that you have been informed of the risks of losing wild genetic materials which have so often cured problems of disease--plagued domestic plants. The wilderness preservation is a part of this, and we certainly cannot persuade Brazil or other developing countries who are eating up their forests and wilderness at a rapid pace unless we show the way ourselves that we value and use up our riches with consideration and plan. We must preserve capitalism with a heart and a hope for future generations. I hope you will support Alternative "W".

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Morrissett
1325 West Quartz, no. 204
Butte, M T 59701
July 9, 1983

June 29, 1983

Dear SENATOR John Melcher

We request that this letter be entered into the official hearing records for the wilderness hearings this July 5,7, & 9 in Missoula, Anaconda, & Great Falls. We will send a zerox to those Field Office addresses.

We would like to urge you to speak for all the Montanans & others throughout the U.S. who believe that Montana & Alaska are this great nations last frontier & offering of a unique way of western life. As a people we founded our great country on the promise of rugged individualism, freedom, & a spacious domain. We must not sell out our lands & natural resources as they are our birthright, our hopes & dreams & our betterment of mankind. Without our wild places we lose our significance as individuals & just resign ourselves to being masses of people without ties to the environment in which we live & derive our very existence from - our heritage & wisdom would be lost if we lost our wild places.

Foresight must be used now to protect the 2.2 million acres of wilderness area proposed by conservationists as "Alternative W" which stands for wilderness, wildlife, watershed protection & western lifestyle. Montana & the rest of the U.S. need these areas to be protected for their beautiful scenery, spiritual values, hiking, fishing, & hunting, & canoeing, kayaking, & rafting. The sports industry accross the country benefits from wilderness & many a business derives its livlihood from the wilderness. Also we must mention that tourism in Montana is big business from which the entire state benefits since it is such a clean industry & the outfitting business relies on our wilderness lands as well. The fact that Montana has beautiful scenery not only brings us the benefits of tourism & its monetary rewards but it benefits the rest of the U.S. as well since travel agencies & train & airline & auto companies & photo companies are kept in business also by people seeking to get away from the drugery & crowding of big city life. People accross the nation need the wilderness to be preserved not only for the monetary reasons of tourism, the sports & outfitting industries but for reasons of emotional & mental health & moral betterment. We all need our natural ties to our natural environment protected & preserved.

The 2.2 million acres of wilderness we seek your support of include roadless lands in the following national forests: Lolo; Flathead; Gallatin; Beaverhead; Kootenai; Bitterroot ; Custer; Helena ; & Lewis & Clark. That still leaves another 3 million acres which we ask be used for "soft release" rather than the "hard release" which the Reagan administration proposes.

Please do your utmost to win a victory for Montana & the U.S. by obtaining wilderness protection for the 2.2 million acres of roadless wild land proposed IN "ALTERNATIVE W" & "SOFT RELEASE" of the other remaining 3 million acres of roadless Montana lands. The U.S. (particularly Montanana) now & fut future generations to come will benefit & be proud of such wisdom & courage & foresight.

Thankyou,

Ernest R Mosier
328 CENTRAL
WHITEFISH MT
59937
"STORE OWNER"

FHR

Honorable Senator
John Melcher
U.S.Senate Offices
Wash.,D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

Please accept this written testimony as part of the hearing record for the Montana Wilderness Hearings, July 1983. I am unable to attend due to field research commitments in the River Of No Return Wilderness this month.

Everyone knows how unique and precious Montanas wildness is. I think that those of us from the more civilized areas of the country can even better appreciate it. That was the very reason I moved here 7 years ago. It is the reason I'll probably never leave.

Montanas roadless lands are the very essence of that wildness. It is the wilderness that makes our state so great. For this and a myriad other reasons all our roadless acres possible should be protected as Wilderness.

I support the Bob Marshall Alliance's Completion Bill. ALL possible additions to the Bob Country should be so designated.

ALL of the Montana Wilderness Study Act Areas and the Elkhorns, should be protected as Wilderness. The Hoodoo/Great Burn area west of Missoula, and all other Forest Service RARE II recommended wilderness should be designated as Wilderness. The Bluejoint WSA should be Montanas contribution to that magnificant "No Return" in Idaho. The Hyalite/Gallatin should be protected as part of the Lee Metcalf.

AMontana Wilderness Bill should contain only'soft release' language and should fully utilize "Alternative W".

Sincerely, Tom R Sewell

Tom R Sewell Box 8494 Missoula

619 First Street
Helena, MT 59601
July 15, 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 West Granite
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Sen. Melcher:

Please include this letter in the record for the U.S Senate Public Lands Subcommitte hearing on Montana wilderness.

I strongly support Alternative W. Only it would adequately protect the small remnant of wild lands in Montana.

I am particularly anxious to see wilderness designation for:

Absaroka-Beartooth additions	60,000 acres
North Absaroka additions	3,000
Lionhead Mountain	22,400
Crazy Mountains	90,000

All of these lands are a part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which is not only of paramount national importance as a recreation area and essential wildlife habitat, but is threatened by a variety of unsuitable proposed uses. Wilderness designation is necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of this unique ecosystem.

Any wild lands not protected as wilderness should not be precluded from wilderness consideration by future forest planning. The loss of wilderness is irrevocable; we must carefully consider such decisions.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson

Bob Anderson

cc Sen. Max Baucus
Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

27-608 O - 84 - 70

FYR

Honerable Senator Melcher
U.S. senate offices
Washington D.C. 20510

June 27, 83

Dear Senator Melcher,

I would like this written testimony to be included in the official hearing record. I am a born and raised Montanan and my love for this State is part of the reason I am writting to you. Montana has far too many unconcerned residents, people who enjoy the great out-of doors but people who do not care to fight for its protection. The value of our vast roadless areas in this state is a fortune which grows exponentially as increasing world populations threaten untouched land.

I support Alternative "W" as I believe it can only benefit the state of Montana in the long run. Areas I am specifically interested in are the Great Burn along the Montana/Idaho divide, the Bluejoint to be added to the magnificent River of no Return, and the Bob Marshall completion bill. The Bob Marshall completion bill is very important to the entire ecosystem. The additions adding .4 million acres are essential for the survival of the pristine Bob country.

We are taking stock in Montanas' future by preserving some of the most precious land in our World today.

I urge the delegation to advocate "Soft release" of the remaining 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness by conservationists. The land not endorsed for Wilderness should be managed with great care for its fragility is not to be denied.

Sincerely yours,

Robin M. Beck

Robin Beck
East Shore Rd.
Polson, Mt. 59860

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATION
National Parks & Conservation Association

Coalition for Canyon Preservation

Box 422
Hungry Horse, Montana
59919

July 18, 1983

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate Energy and
Natural Resources Committee
1123 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support Alternative W recommendations for National Forest wilderness designation of RARE II lands and "Soft Release"

Dear Senator Melcher,

The CCP is a non-profit educational resource and research organization dedicated to the advancement of sound bio-regional planning in the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Ecosystem, the upper portions in particular. CCP has a current membership of 400.

In general, CCP supports "Alternative W" recommendations for Montana's future National Forest wilderness designations. In particular, CCP supports all Bob Marshall additions, especially Deep Creek, Teton River High Peaks, and Choteau Mountain of the Rocky Mountain Front; and the entire recommended portions of the Swan Front.

CCP urges Montana's Congressional delegation to advocate "soft release" of the remaining acres of roadless land not given wilderness protection. The soft release approach preserves options for future considerations based on need for watershed protection or wildlife management. "Soft Release" releases the roadless areas not designated as wilderness by Congress from consideration as wilderness for the next 15 years of the present National Forest Planning cycle. This viable compromise has been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, West Virginia, and Florida.

Thank you very much for seriously considering and supporting Alternative W recommendations. Please enter this comment into the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

Sharlon L. Willows

Sharlon L. Willows, Coordinator

cc Senator Max Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

1100

F+A

July 6, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands Subcommittee
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing in support of Alternative "W" for the remaining RARE II lands in Montana. I have spent considerable time in the last nine years in the mountains of SW Montana and know many of them quite well.

I can speak about two areas, in particular: 1) Crazy Mountains--rather than being sold they would make a unique addition to the wilderness system; and 2) Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness additions--these are necessary to protect a more complete ecosystem, particularly for wildlife.

I also urge adoption of "soft release" language in any bill for areas not chosen for wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Harold Bockelman

Harold Bockelman
123 S. 20th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

P.S. Please include this letter in the hearing record.

To the Honorable Senators Melcher and Baucus, and Representatives Williams and Marlenee.

The following written testimony is to supplement my spoken testimony at the RARE II Sufficiency hearing in Anaconda on July 7.

Why wilderness? Often at these hearings our natural forest was looked at in terms of what we could get out of it. These terms were quickly reduced to jobs and money. Thus it seemed at times that the real issue boiled down to whether logging, mining or tourism was better for Montanans. It seemed as if what finally warrants a wilderness area is a better economic advantage.

While such arguments are interesting and have their point, they lead us astray and make us forget our most basic and genuine concern for wilderness as something worthy in its own right of protection. To compare jobs and money with wilderness is like comparing apples and oranges. The categories of means and ends are not the same. Jobs, at least as they are viewed today, and money are <u>means</u>. They are penultimate in worth. The real question is what are our jobs <u>for</u>? What is our money used for? What are our <u>ends</u>? That is what wilderness is about.

Thought of in this way, I think most people would rather have virgin stands of timber than wooden cabinets for their TV sets. Or I think most people would say that the Crazy Mountains preserved in their roadless, undeveloped state adds more to the well-being of their lives than does a $250 heavy metal barbecuer with a propane tank and lighter along with the mining and gas wells that their manufacture entails.

Or, looked at from a different angle, I can say that, having grown up in Montana, I would rather spend my weekends hiking through fragrant meadows and the nights huddled around a campfire with the intimate conversations that evokes with my friends than I would a weekend of going out to eat in Manhattan, going to a broadway play, listening to jazz and going for a walk in Central Park. To live the quality of life I live without much money in Montana in New York I would have to have at least an income of $80,000. Even then, I would be like a fish out of water. I would not be happy.

We can come to speak of the quality of wilderness as a great thing in another way. Some people jog on machines. This fulfills one specific need - exercise. In contrast, a hike in the wilderness fulfills not only my need for exercise but also my needs for mastery, space, variety, friendship, solitude, aggression, beauty, needs to smell, hear, see, feel, feel the earth underfoot, a need to get outside myself, to wake up, to recomprehend things, a need to meditate and recollect, a need to embody and know the landscape and its things.

I would like to see Montanans come to a decision concerning wilderness which we can live with. And live with without regret. We feel guilt and feel regret when we are not equal to the significance of something which comes to pass.

If my brother did not jump in the river after his young son when he fell in, he would feel terrible. If my brother-in-law did not see to it that the best doctors using the latest technology available examined his broken hip, he would have to live with the thought that maybe his limp could have been prevented had he asserted himself more. So too with wilderness. If we let some grand and beatiful area such as the Crazy Mountains be developed, be changed to a place that no longer calls us to it, then many of us are going to feel guilt, regret, and sadness. And if we would not feel it now, we would feel it when our children and grandchildren ask, "How could you?"

It's hard for Montanans to see how great a thing wilderness is. Most people who have had to leave and live outside the state know that these areas make a big difference. They miss these mountains.

I'll speak more about the significance of wilderness and specifically the Crazy Mountains later on.

I want to speak on behalf of the Crazies in particular. I became concerned about development in the Crazies last year when I was shocked to see a road, The Stan Clark Road, had been built half way into my favorite spot in the Crazies. I experienced for the first time how fragile and vulnerable even this seemingly tough terrain is. Now I see where the forest service is planning timber sales in that same area of Cottonwood Creek. I can see now that these mountains need protection from development. The only current satisfactory protection is having wilderness status.

The Crazy Mountains were dropped from consideration as having wilderness potential in the RARE II studies. There do not exist any documents stating the specific reasons why this was done. One can only speculate why the decision was made and how responsible it was.

One of the reasons may have been the 21 WARS rating it was given in the supplemental corrections to the RARE II study. (In the first edition, it was given a 23 WARS rating). I called Missoula three weeks ago to get official copies of the WARS studies done on the Crazies but they have not sent me these yet. From Bozeman I acquired a copy of the WARS rating on the Crazies done by Aicher, Brown, and Fitzhugh. This rating has several large mistakes as I will proceed to point out.

With the natural integrity rating, the scorers are asked to first rate an impact in terms of its "influence on the natural processes of the impacted area only , and not in terms of the influence on the entire area". (WARS guidelines, p. 18). This is done in column 3 of the worksheet. Some of these ratings could be rather high but very minute in size which happens to be the case in the Crazies. Then scorers are asked to rate each of these impacts as they influence the natural integrity of the entire area in column 8 (Ibid. , p.22). Here ratings indicate that the scorers were not thinking in terms of the relation between minute impacts to the whole area but were thinking of the impacts in and of themselves.

Some of their ratings indicate that between 25 and 50 percent of the whole area is impacted (which is supposed to be the case with a moderate rating, Ibid, P. 22.) When, in fact, in column 4 we find the percentage of the total area impacted is NIL or less than 1 percent! As a consequence, these ratings on natural integrity and apparent naturalness are way out of line.

The scores showing opportunity for solitude are not right either. In the area proposed in Alternative "W", the distance from the core to the perimeter is greater than 5 miles or outstanding. With this proposal the off site intrusions of an airline corridor or clear-cuts no longer exist. While it is true that the vegetative screening is moderate, this is because the area is highly dissected with steep, razor sharp ridges which trees cannot grow upon. (See WARS, P. 29 about inconsistent component ratings.) There are draws and cirques everywhere. It's like a labyrinth in there. And look at the number of lakes! I bet I could spend the summer in Rock Creek drainage alone and never come into contact with other hikers. When I want solitude, I go to the Crazy Mountains. Certainly this area warrants a 7 for solitude.

Similarly, the score for primitive opportunity is off. No reason was given for marking limited development rather than minimal. To my knowledge there is one bridge in the area. All the trails are rocky and rugged. More importantly, more than any other wilderness area I've been in, the country invites visitors to venture into areas which huge boulders, steep slopes, and cliffs will prevent trails from ever being built.

As the evaluators indicated, there are plenty of challenges in the Crazies. And even when you feel comparatively safe on a hot July day, these mountains can be plenty crazy. Last time I was in the Crazies I backpacked up Rock Creek. Just before we got to Rock Lake, a squall overtook us. Then another. When I looked at the clouds to see if it was going to be an afternoon shower or big storm, I noticed they were moving in three opposing directions. We made it down to the timber and set up the tent just in time. It stormed steady for the next 32 hours. We were wet and cold and by the 15th hour decided to leave before the snow began to pile up. We found Rock Creek swollen into a fast-moving river, and I began to worry about being able to ford it at all. I would hate to think of another night with everything sopping wet already. Luckily, we found a place to ford it where the creek broke up into four channels.

Certainly the Crazies should rate a 7 in opportunity for primitive recreation.

Regardless of what the WARS rating say, any about the Crazies, anyone who has ever visited them will say that they rank among the tops for beauty and ruggedness. To introduce someone to wild, beautiful, rugged country, I would take them to the Crazies. They define and give a standard for ruggedness and wilderness. In any other state they would be made a national park.

Quality is what makes a difference in our lives. What counts. The Crazies and Absarokas Mountains are like the woodstove of the continent for me. They orient me. I spend my summers huddled up next to them. And even when I'm off in New York in school, I feel like I'm merely

gathering wood to come back.

The only way you can really discover the quality of an area is by embodying it. Either you have to experience it yourself or be told about it from someone who has. Besides its usual features, what keeps me coming back to the Crazies is the way its full of unforeseen surprises. Or things like the way night settles in there - with a rush and whirl of winds.

Or the goats that one sees from time to time there. To me they are like little mustard seeds. Tiny as they are high up in the cliffs, they gather the entire landscape into themselves. When you see them, you see how tall the peaks are, how blue the sky is, how vast a fall they would have. They show the sustaining grasses that grow on the ledges. Their whiteness brings winter to mind and how the wind must howl down through all those crazy draws and valleys.

They also bring to mind past sightings, hikes, and humorous occasions. They remind me of past hunts with my father. The time I missed. I was never a genuine hunter like my brother. These mountains brought that out.

All this and more is gathered into those little white specks dancing from rock to rock. Never do these creatures shine more brightly than they do set in those wild and crazy mountains.

Some forest officials have looked at the lack of a network interwoven trails through the Crazies as something unfavorable. But I think the Crazies offer a different kind of backpacking. I like to set up a base camp and take daily explorations. You can easily spend five days or so getting to know one particular drainage such as Cottonwood Creek. Also, another access is being added in the Big Timber district.

Most of the Crazies are steep, jagged, rocky mountains which do not support commercial timber. The east side of the Crazies has had no timber cut yet. In the forest plan, over 90% of the land is designated as dispersed recreation and near natural areas. The parts of the Crazies which have some timber potential are usually only creek bottoms such as with Cottonwood Creek. Even here the timber production is minimally low to moderate. Thus, considered against the overall acreage of the Crazies, timber potential is almost nothing. When weighed against the aesthetic, recreational, and wilderness quality lost by the development of timber in these creek bottoms, it seems to me a ridiculous venture.

The Crazies have failed to yield anything worth mining even though many small prospecting attempts have been made. The latest attempt by a Nevada based outfit has proven to be an illegitimate claim because laboratory samples do not bear out what is reported to be there and the operation is suspected of being a "scam" by local officials.

An oil and gas well was drilled near the Lazy K Ranch, but it has failed to produce anything. Geologist at M.S.U. think that the heat from the intrusion forming the Crazies forced the oil and gas far away from the mountain reaches. I might add that the Crazies has been proposed as a National Geographic landmark because of their unique volcanic radiating dike landform.

The checkerboard pattern of landownership is usually taken as a decisive point against the Crazies for being designated as a wilderness. In fact the Big Timber office officials said the Crazies would have been wilderness if not for this problem. It is a problem which will demand some care, attention and work but it is not insurmountable. Livingston district forest officials say that already landowners of the Smeller Lake, Rock Lake, and Idiot Peak sections have contacted them desiring to sell or exchange. This would allow for 51 sections or 32,640 acres of forest land to be contiguous - hardly a checkerboard. Such a core could be designated as wilderness with a view to working with landowners and adding the rest.

If four more sections, Cottonwood Lake, Conical Peak, Granite Lake, and Crazy Peak were acquired, the core of the Crazies could be owned by the forest service, designated as wilderness, and added to as time goes on. Such a core would amount to 48,640 acres or 76 sections.

I talk in terms of "purchase" and "with a view to adding the rest" because it simply will not do to own mountain peaks while allowing the foothills to pass into private ownership. The foothills are vital to the Crazies' wildlife. Perhaps some exchange could be arranged with the Box Canyon area to the north or with BLM land. Probably both buying and exchanging would have to occur. Currently I am meeting with each landowner to see what they are concerned about most, to see if buying and exchanging is possible, and to find out what other ideas they might have for keeping the Crazies as a roadless, undeveloped, mountain region.

The forest service needs to own all of the present RARE II area and some of the developed foothills. Besides letting the wildlife population suffer, the private landowners will virtually victimize the uses of the public land as they are now by preventing wilderness designation and such things as the Stan Clark Road. If this is to happen, the Crazies just as well be sold.

The proposals which I have traveled with my own feet, the Crazies and the Absaroka-Beartooth additions, make good sense. Therefore, I support all of "Alternative B". America is only beginning to awaken to the significance of its roadless public lands. Therefore I support Soft Mileage.

Thank you for hearing me out on these matters. I will continue to write as I find things out about the Crazies.

Sincerely,

David Strong

5

David Strong
P.O. Box 69
Livingston, Montana 59047

P.S. Please strike from my spoken testimony the wording "With [illegible] to sell" but replace it with "With the Reagan Administration [illegible] selling". (Newsweek, May 12, 1983). Thank you.

6651 Gooch Hill Road
Bozeman, MT 59715
July 22, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Butte Field Office
55 W. Granite Street
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please include the following testimony in the documents collected from the hearing on wilderness in the Deerlodge, Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests.

As a Montana resident of many years, I am certain that much of our state's future wealth will reside in our wild lands. These lands presently attract much business to Montana in the form of tourists and recreationists, who fish, photograph wild animals, hunt, sightsee, ski cross country and downhill, canoe, horsepack, backpack, camp and take part in many other activities related to the wild and natural beauty of our state.

A certain amount of road access and motorized vehicle use is required for such activities, and we now have many miles of road for each Montana resident. But wilderness is also required to maintain wild animal populations, clean water, fisheries and attractive views, which are the amenities that bring these people to our state. In very few years, without protection, our wilderness will no longer exist. Furthermore, we will be unable to regain it once it is lost. In fact, only by maintaining more of our de facto wilderness in a wild condition, with protection, can we avoid substantial degradation of our present protected wilderness from overuse and borderline conflicts in wild animal winter range.

The timber industry provides substantial income from our National Forests, but in relatively dry mountain areas such as the Gallatin National Forest, many timberlands are not really economical to harvest. To use tax dollars to subsidize road building for such harvests is wasteful and reckless, when regeneration of timber is known to be very slow. A balance of industry between timber and tourism also makes a lot of sense from an economic point of view. Each industry reacts differently to changes in the national money supply, and one will suffer recession in a different pattern from the other. To resolve the RARE II process in these forests, "Alternative W" makes the most sense from an economic point of view.

As a mother of young adults who may soon be starting families of their own, I believe that the heritage of wilderness my family has enjoyed in Montana must be increased if my grandchildren are to know what it is to observe wild animals, enjoy outdoor recreation and see the wild beauty that we take for granted now. I have personally visited many of the areas proposed for wilderness in "Alternative W," such as the East Pioneers, Tobacco Roots, the Crazies, and Lionhead Mountain. They are prime areas for wilderness designation. I have also spent many days traveling on the Beartooth Plateau. Additions proposed here will provide needed winter wildlife habitat. "Alternative W" makes the most sense from my personal point of view.

Therefore, I urge all who are involved in the final decision for the Deerlodge, Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests to please adopt "Alternative W." A decision in favor of designating reasonable amounts of new wilderness can only serve our nation, the state of Montana and all the people who live near or far from these wild places.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Faulkner

Lee Faulkner
6651 Gooch Hill Road, Bozeman MT

Dear Senator John Melcher June 26, 1983

It is such a frustrating feeling of helplessness to be watching more & more of what little the U.S. has left of it's precious, irreplaceable wilderness areas disapear. It is important that we act right now to preserve as much of our wild lands as we possibly can. Already too much of our natural heritage & natural resources have been lost through very short-sighted actions. There is more to life on earth than using things up right now because we must think ahead for all the future generations to come so that they might have the same chances to enjoy what we have taken for granted... wildlife, natural rivers, streams, lakes, forests, plants indiginous to their areas. We all need the chance to be able to have these aspects of our world in their natural state without being changed & cluttered up with mans hampering. "Without wildlands, a society has no touchstone with which to measure its progress. Without the spiritual renewal that a wildland personally givesso many, we would become a hopeless shambles- casualties of our modern "civilized" world". Where in the world would our great nation be if we had not had great thinkers & conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt who saved Yellowstone Park for us & John Muir who spent most of his life fighting to preserve & to create at least 6 major parks & monnents & many wilderness areas. Many people of great vision & much hard work have fought the battle against greed & over developement of such great places of wonder & beauty as our National Parks which include our presently endangered Glacier Park, & such others as Olympic, Crater Lake, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Bryce. Thank God someone before our time set these places aside for protection for the rest of mankind to enrich their lives with. Wilderness areas as well as national parks have provided myself & so many others with some of the best hours spent & memories of all the wondrous beauties of nature & exciting moments experienced when watching & photographing wild animals & plants & scenes firsthand in these preserved areas. These wild places provide people with a personal fullfillment & understanding of individuality. Please help protect what we still have left in Northwest Montana by [illegible] our congressmen so that our wild places will not be sold out, ruined, & overcrowded like other states have done.

Since the Forest Service predicts an extreme shortage of wilderness & primitive lands in the future, here now is a chance to use foresight & do things right by designating the Swan Crest Range along with the North End of the North Fork, & a few parcels of the Cabinet as wilderness areas. Protect these places now & for the future from motorized vehicles, noise & air pollution, overcrowding & overuse, timber sell-off, & reduction of vegetation, destruction of wildlife & their habitats & migration patterns & breeding, & oil & gas leasing & drilling. Help mankind & wildlife today by protecting some special places for them both to remain & have access to an untouched area where they will have room to be away from other people & their machines.

Please enter this letter in the official hearing record for 2.2 million acres of wilderness to be protected ("Alternative W") & the other 3 million acres to be used as "Soft Release" lands.

Sincerely,
Diane Caughey - photographer & author
Diane Caughey

Jack Caughey - investment Advisor and motel owner and commercial property owner & lawyer

575 Tamarack Creek Rd
Whitefish, Mt. 59937
(406) 862-6338

July 9, 1983
Box 62 Canyon Route
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

Senator John Melcher
Butte Field Office
55 West Granite Street
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Senator Melcher:

I was unable to attend and testify at the hearing in Anaconda concerning the RARE II question. However, I am writing to you in hopes you will submit this letter to the hearing record.

It is imperative this issue be FAIRLY resolved as soon as possible. Being a native Montanan and a concerned citizen who desires to see Montana's wilderness and potential wilderness area preserved for future generations to see, I wholeheartedly support the Alternative W proposal and soft- release language. Please consider this new proposal---for the sake of future generations, and our legacy to them, not short term monetary gains.

Sincerely,

Deborah Fleming

Deborah Fleming

June 30,1983

FTR

Dear Senator John Melcher:

I request that this letter be included in the official hearing record for the wilderness hearings. Thankyou. I ask your help in securing protection of our wild Montana lands which are in debate. Please propose "Alternative W" for such important areas as these which I am most familar with: Lolo N.F. - Mission Mts. W. A. & Selway Bitterroot W.A.; Flathead N.F. - Northern Swan Crest; Gallatin N.F. - Absaroka Beartooth W.A.; Kootenai N.F. - Cabinet Mts. W.A. & Trout Creek; Bitterroot N.F. - Selway Bitterroot W.A.; Lewis & Clark N.F. - Tenderfoot-Deep Creek ; The Bob Marshall Wilderness Protection Proposal on the Lewis & Clark, Helena, Lolo, & Flathead N.F. - The Swan Front.

These areas specifically (along with others deserving protection & designation as wilderness also) are of vast importance to Montana & its people for their wilderness value & we should by all means protect their waters, plants, & wildlife. These lands not only represent Montana's unique style of western living but they are extremely important to our tourist trade & promotion & also to the sports & outfitting industries and of course these are our places to hike, fish & hunt as well as to spiritually renew ourselves & to be entertained & soothed by such scenic quality & beauty.

Please join & speak for all the Montanans who support "Alternative W" to protect approximately 2 million acres of Montana's finest remaining wilderness lands. And please speak in our behalf to advocate "soft release" of the other 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness. We need your voice & power to help save & preserve these areas of wilderness for all of us who live in Montana & for the rest of the U.S. as well. Thankyou for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Tollett
Box 196
Whitefish, Mnt

CONCERNING MONTANA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

After careful consideration, I strongly recommend:

I. Alternative "W" as developed by the Montana Wilderness Association;

2. That sufficiency legislation is at this time important, but that the Alternative "W" lands must be protected;

3. That release of some roadless areas will be in the best public interest but such release should not be permanent. Periodic reconsideration, along with Forest Service committment to maintaining these release lands in an essentially roadless condition, is necessary.

I was born in Missoula, raised in the mountains- backpacking, canoeing, logging, fishing, and enjoying- and I greatly value wilderness for its beauty, economic, watershed, and "American individual strengthening" resources. I am personally familiar with I/3 of the Alternative "W" areas.

I also greatly respect the need for the timber industry and for ranchers to have access to lands which support their ways of life. However, I feel that the following considerations are most important in deciding in favor of the above-mentioned Wilderness Alternative:

A. Wilderness, once opened to logging, roads, development, and heavy grazing, will lose its essence forever, whereas with the development of synthetic materials, and changes in American diets, the timber and ranching industries most likely will not increase or maintain their current need for Forest Service lands.

B. We need to set aside easily accessible, easily controlled land to make timber growth and harvest most efficient and economical. The roadless areas of Alternative "W" will not take away from this needed land use resource.

C. So far, Montana has not been subjected to the tremendous influx of wilderness users, as have California, Colorado, Washington, and, increas-

Ken Grant, 326 W. Sussex, Missoula, Montana, 59801

II

CONCERNING MONTANA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

ingly, Wyoming. We must set aside enough wilderness, which is now available, to absorb the boots and hooves of many CENTURIES of expanding world population and/or increasing need for natural recreation opportunities. Montana will increasingly be discovered by backpackers, and developers, as well as loggers. I'd like to come back to Montana in two or three hundred years, to see if we're still a unique and precious state. Will the people be proud of our outdoor heritage? Will our wild lands be strong with appeal and promise, and not mere replications of other short-sighted management plans?

D. We must not assume that we are the most competent people in Montana's history to decide on the limits of wilderness boundaries:

Are we generous enough, rich enough, to preserve ample wilderness for a generation yet to come who will be sensitive enough to utilize the spiritual resources of nature more completely than we do?

Have we developed the most efficient conservation practices for the resources we feel we need to take from potential wilderness areas?

Are we wise enough to allow places where the laws of nature may be visibly expressed in balance, harmony, effectiveness, and beauty, as a model for restoring the balance of nature to our cities and farms?

Finally, can we present Montanans respect each others' needs, and the needs of our still natural areas, to decide the boundaries of wilderness in practical terms for ourselves, and in wise terms for the future?

Ken Grant, 326 W. Sussex, Missoula, Montana, 59801

* Please include this statement in the hearing record on RARE II. Thanks.

Ken Grant

FTR

LAW OFFICES OF
JAMES, GRAY & McCAFFERTY

TED JAMES
ORVILLE GRAY
DENNIS C. MC CAFFERTY
ROBERT F. JAMES
RANDALL H. GRAY
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BRIAN BULGER

TELEPHONE 727-8811
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P. O. BOX 8866
WENDT BUILDING
615 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59406

July 14, 1983

The Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am sorry I was not able to attend the Wilderness Hearing you held in Great Falls on July 9th. However, I wish to express my views as to the future of Montana wild lands.

I generally support "Alternative W" and would urge you to give it your earnest consideration. I do not purport to be familiar with all of the areas involved so wish to comment only on a few where I have personal knowledge:

1. Swan Front and Swan Crest (Lewis & Clark Forest -- 108,000 acres; Lolo Forest -- 72,000 acres.)

I have visited these areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Swan Peak, capped by small remnant glacier, is the gem of the Southfork of the Flathead country. This area should have wilderness protection. It is extremely beautiful and has little lumbering potential.

2. Rocky Mountain Front (Lewis & Clark Forest -- 224,000 acres.

I have also visited and hunted in this area. I feel that due to the proximity to Bob Marshall, this should be protected to buffer the core area. It is extremely important for management of the last healthy population of Grizzly Bear south of Canada, and the largest herd of Big Horn Sheep in the nation. I realize that the area has oil and gas potential, and appreciate the energy needs of our country. However, I feel at this time wildlife values should prevail. The minerals have been there for eons and will not disappear. If 100 years from now they are desperately needed, the congress of that era can address the problem. The wilderness values, on the other hand, cannot be put back together. They are like "Humpty Dumpty's" egg.

3. Tenderfoot-Deep Creek (Lewis & Clark Forest - 94,000 acres.)

I am intimately familiar with this area. I have visited it extensively over the past 50 years, starting as a small boy. I have, in effect, grown up in this area. It is the closest pristine area to Metropolitan Great Falls. It is very awe-inspiring and has a great variety of beauty. It has wide variation of elevations, from some 4,000 feet in the Smith River Valley to about 8,000 feet at Monument Peak. It still has native Cutthroat Trout. It has a viable and healthy elk herd that established itself without planning. It has tremendous value for short backpack trips and horse trips of a few days duration close to Great Falls population and I feel it is far superior to the Judith and Big Snowy areas under consideration. Grazing should be continued by livestock at about the present rate. Other than that, it should remain basically as Lewis and Clark found it in July of 1805, when they named the Smith River after Jefferson's Secretary of the Navy.

This is the last chance to establish wilderness areas in Montana. The total will still not be a large percentage of the state, only some 3 or 4 percent. I do not feel this is excessive. I have two grandsons, age four and one, and I hope when they are my age, they may still enjoy wild and pristine areas in Montana. This will only be possible if wise and farsighted congressmen and senators in 1983 take action. As Aldo Leopold said, "Wilderness is a resource which can shrink, but not grow." This is our last chance. Please give it your best shot.

With best personal regards and wishing you happy trails, I am,

Yours very truly,

ORVILLE GRAY

OG/jpf

FWR

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P. O. BOX 8988
WENDY BUILDING
816 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

July 15, 1983

Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
253 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Montana Wilderness Hearings

Dear Senator Melcher:

I did not have an opportunity to testify during the scheduled wilderness hearings this month. By way of this letter I offer my comments regarding the wilderness hearings and request that this letter be made part of the official hearing record.

I support the "Alternative W" compromise proposed by the Montana Wilderness Association. I am by no means familiar with all of the areas contained in the Alternative W proposal. For purposes of this letter I will direct my comments to those areas with which I am familiar.

1. Bob Marshall fringe areas. I am personally familiar with the seven wilderness candidate areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall. These include the Rocky Mountain front areas of Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek, Teton High Peaks, and Choteau Mountain. The other two Bob Marshall fringe areas are Monture Creek and the Swan Front. I have been a user of the Bob Marshall and its fringe areas since I was eight years of age. During my college years I worked for the Forest Service in the Bob Marshall. In my opinion, the wilderness value of the seven Bob Marshall fringe areas far exceeds the value of any alternative use. The inclusion of these areas into the nation's wilderness system is vital to protect the integrity of the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear Wilderness areas. I cannot conceive that our nation's timber resources are so pressed that we must invade the limited acreage of these seven fringe areas for their timber resource. I recognize the oil and gas potential of the Rocky Mountain front area. But again, I believe our nation can do without the limited contribution of oil and gas from the Rocky Mountain front.

The addition of the .4 million acres represented by the Bob Marshall fringe areas to the Bob Marshall Complex would pay economic dividends to Montana in terms of making the Bob Marshall Complex an even more attractive recreation facility. I respectfully urge your consideration of including the Bob Marshall fringe areas in the nation's wilderness system.

2. Tenderfoot-Deep Creek on the Lewis & Clark National Forest. I am intimately familiar with this 94,000 acre area on the west end of the Little Belt Mountains. The compromised wilderness proposal for this area has been well thought out. It excludes the major timber production areas of the upper Tenderfoot Creek to allow timber harvesting to continue in that area. The Tenderfoot-Deep Creek area provides excellent elk and deer habitat. The area on the west is comprised of the Smith River Canyon which has become one of the premier recreational floating streams in the State of Montana. I think it is appropriate to allow continued livestock grazing in the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek area even with a wilderness designation. The Tenderfoot-Deep Creek is located midway between the population areas of Great Falls and Helena. It is an excellent candidate for wilderness protection.

In my opinion, the courage and forsightedness of Congress in 1964 in establishing the Wilderness System was a tremendous credit to our country's history. If the current Congress can exercise the same courage and forsightednesss as in 1964, future generations will be well-served.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Yours very truly,

JAMES, GRAY & McCAFFERTY

Randall H. Gray

RHG/ct

cc: Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Ron Marlenee

602 Concord Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
July 28, 1983

Senator John Melcher
7123 Dirksen Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please include the following comments in the record on RARE II hearings in Missoula on 5 July, 1983 for the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

My husband and I support the Alternative W Proposal to make additions to Montana wilderness. We believe that the pressures of increased population in our State necessitate setting aside areas for roadless recreation.

Views of and from the Continental Divide are spectacular. Fishing with such scenery as a backdrop is memorable regardless of the size of your catch! The areas nominated in the Flathead National Forest are also ideal as a reserve for endangered species, particularly the grizzly bear. Problem bears from Glacier National Park should not be deported to the inhabitted areas such as the North Fork but rather into wilderness areas where they can be hunted. In this respect the Jewel Basin-Swan areas are ideal, for hunting will restore a fear of man to thesecreatures as well as provide substantial income to our State in the form of hunting licenses, outfitters' and guides' fees, motel and restaurant income, etc.

Although my husband and I have hiked into the Swan Crest area only a few times, we appreciate having an area where bikes and vehicles have no access. As our retirement years approach, hopefully we will have more time to fish and utilize these wilderness areas.

In the future, Montanans will find that preservation of such splendid scenery will be a unique asset in our State, drawing ever increasing numbers of visitors who want to share a wilderness experience. As an example, witness the increase of backpackers, day hikers, and horseback riders using the back country trails of Glacier National Park each year. And how many States have wilderness or scenery of this type comparable to ours? We have been fortunate to be so blessed in this respect. Our remaining wilderness is an irreplaceable asset we should appreciate, guard as a great prize, and pass on unspoiled to future generations. Alternative W will guarantee and safeguard this vanishing heritage before Development conquers all!

Yours truly,
Maryan & Bill Heppell
Maryan & Bill Heppell

cc: Sen. Max Baucus
Rep. Pat Williams

July 10 1983

Senate Energy and Rewoulce Committee
Washington D.C 20510

We would like this entered as testimony in the records of the hearing on RARE 11 findings.
We feel the time is long overdue to act to protect Montana lands. We have hiked in almost all the areas in Montana and particularly the Bob Marshall, Swan Range, Monture Creek and Selway Bitterroot areas. We feel it would be a great injustice to humanity to allow anything to change these areas.
There are many arguments wecould gave in favor of wilderness,but feel it is enough to say we agree with the statements submitted by theGreat Falls Nature and Wildlands and the Wilderness association.

Therefore we support alternative W and Soft Release.

Sincerely.

Jane Lauckner
Wm L. Lauckner

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

July 12, 1983

Dear Senator Melcher,

Please include this letter in the official record of the statewide Montana wilderness hearings.

I am writing to support "Alternative W" --the plan by Montana conservationists to add to eight existing wildernesses and to create twenty-one new areas. Since my move to Montana approximately one year ago (primarily to be nearer the very wilderness we are trying to conserve) I have visited five of the nine National Forests included in the "Alternative W" plan and have hiked or cross-country skied in the Welcome, Rattlesnake, Selway-Bitterroot, Absaroka-Beartooth, and Bob Marshall Wildernesses. I am sure that many if not most of the people living in Montana are rooted by those same natural resources that attracted me.

Unspoiled wilderness areas contribute to our well-being not only in obvious ways (watershed, recreation, retreat, research), but also in ways that we are only beginning to understand (subtle and critical interactions between animals, plants, and chemicals on a global scale). Furthermore, I think that the vision and boldness nurtured by first hand wilderness experience are as much or more a part of the American character as the undeniable drive to use that wilderness for material gain and so-called progress.

Accepting the fact that some areas may be released from wilderness consideration, I support the "soft" release of these areas (the only compromise formula accepted by the entire Congress in previous wilderness bills). If we must surrender some wilderness, we should at least play it safe and not surrender it entirely or irrevocably. Once it's gone, it's gone for a long time.

In addition, I do not support any "sufficiency" legislation unless it is part of an overall statewide RARE II bill which includes wilderness protection for the priority "Alternative W" roadless areas.

Thanks for including my written testimony in the official records.

Sincerely,

Dana McMurray

cc: Rep. Williams
Sen. Baucus
Rep. Marlenee
Gov. Schwinden

Dear Senator Melcher, 14 July 83

I live near the northwest corner of Glacier National Park, and overlook the Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck areas. Both of these roadless areas have been recommended for wilderness designation by "Alternative W". I greatly value the opportunity to hike, observe wildlife, fish and hunt in these wild areas of Montana. Many, many other outdoor enthusiasts throughout the state share my sentiments, contributing substantially to Montana's income through tourism and hunting/fishing expenditures. Once a wilderness is roaded and manipulated, its wild character is lost forever. Only Congress can designate wilderness so I am requesting your help in protecting Montana's remaining wildlands, particularly the 2.2 million acres recommended for wilderness protection by "Alternative W" that were not granted wilderness status under RARE II.

An important issue is the form of "release" that these recommended wilderness lands would take. Hard release would be very detrimental, legally preventing any remaining roadless lands from ever being considered again for wilderness management. Soft release is the only compromise formula that has been accepted by Congress for wilderness bills in Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, West Virginia and Florida. Please support the soft release of these lands, giving them a chance for wilderness designation.

pg. 2

As a wildlife biologist I am aware that some wildlife species, such as deer and elk, can benefit from manipulation of the land. However, more sensitive species, such as the gray wolf and grizzly bear, need large areas of undisturbed/roadless habitat in order to survive and raise their offspring. I have been fortunate enough to be thrilled by the sight of grizzlies, wolf, wolverine and other secretive species in remote areas of the Flathead National Forest, including the Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck areas, let's not further reduce their habitat and chance of survival by mutilating the few remaining roadless wildlands in Montana. I support "Alternative W" and hope you will too.

Please include my written testimony in the official hearing record.

Sincerely,
Diane Boyd

Diane Boyd
Moose City Cabin
Polebridge, MT
59928

PO Box 1201
Helena, Montana 59624
July 19, 1983

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
1123 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

I would like my letter to be included in the record of the Montana Wilderness Hearing of July 9, 1983, in Great Falls, Montana.

I attended the Wilderness Hearings in Great Falls on July 9 and was greatly dismayed by the testimony of those who want to open the Wilderness areas (proposed) to multiple use. It was especially ironic that they had testified that those who want to preserve the wilderness have selfish motives.

I strongly disagree. It seems to me that those who want to open this entire nation to multiple use are taking a selfish, shortsighted, narrowminded approach. They want instant gratification of their desires and needs (even though there is no need for oil, coal, or gas) without considering the long term effects desecration of the wilderness will have on the quality and aesthetic value of life in this country.

I feel that unless we learn to respect our land and its resources, unless we conserve what wilderness (however infinitesimal) remains, unless we learn to use alternative energy resources (wind, solar, superconductors),

we will seriously jeopardize our futures, along with the existance of wildlife.

I recently moved to Montana, and have not had much opportunity to explore the area. I feel we should conserve these wilderness areas for us and for future generations. I hope that in a few years there is more left of wilderness areas than just memories.

I support "Alternative W" and soft release of roadless areas. We would be premature and foolish to give away our wilderness areas now.

Thankyou

Sincerely
Pat Campbell
Helena Montana

July 28, 1983
1075 Kelley Rd
Columbia Falls Mt
59912

Dear Senator Baucus

AUG -1
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RECEIVED
AUG 1983
WASHINGTON D.C. 20510

This letter is in regard to the Swan Creek and the Montana Wilderness Bill.

I have lived in the Flathead Valley fifty years. (All my life.) My husband & I have eleven children. For over 30 years our livelihood has depended on the timber industry.

We need a Montana Wilderness Bill. Lets indentify the areas that do not qualify for wilderness & release it for multiple use. We need a statement declaring RARE II sufficient and that all uses were considered (wilderness included). RARE II needs to be settled so our industry can survive & future jobs secured.

I very much oppose the Swan Crest Wilderness Area. My 150 acre ranch borders the area and if a buffer zone were enforced (which is very likly) it would not be worth a penance. Possible fires could not be managed. Fire scarred mountains are not pretty. Logging there is not financially feasiable and there is no plan with in the Forest Plan to do so.

I would like this letter to go on record.

Sincerely
Yvonne Matthews
1075 Kelley Rd
Columbia Falls Mt 5991

July 10, 1953

Dear Anne FR

2.

and to how can effect a great ,
[illegible] ing per issue to land logging .
[illegible] fuel or grazing for our county
[illegible] & destroy our major watersheds
[illegible] to good of any of the rest without
[illegible] also dependent on water.
[illegible] on our thinks about water of the
[illegible] was ever spent cotton. Look at what
[illegible] by wind & cotton. next with the
[illegible] up of no gd (for b) land by a
[illegible] fact back on the grain market
[illegible] & [illegible] to effect this will
[illegible] on the children or grand children.
[illegible] was to be used to the best of the
[illegible] human [illegible] tied to no
[illegible] how much water they use and another
[illegible] how much was over the
[illegible] up in upon and then others
[illegible] [illegible] people only know
[illegible] by [illegible] told or read back.
[illegible] a little lecturing around and a

little woman that they would see
that after the snow is gone and the grass
area there is still some water and good
water to keep for a long time. I have got
a lot of the most beautiful flowers that
ever grew in the forest very shallow
roots again. of only a depth 18".
Now was that an improvement of
children are too costly for people
with the use to the lack of wood to
feed them and not a single
Indian back that think of the water
that water. Can you see some
area that has been logged [illegible] has
logged on it, and [illegible] that
back in the [illegible]
to [illegible] that
back that fit to fit
[illegible] they will
at back.

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] I took over.

I would recommend that when the
bees are put into the hives that
the combs be permanent. Have
always them on hand to fill those
combs used for feeding and when
[illegible] Russell Refuge or those feeding the
ones already on the bees or the
[illegible] it was said that much of
the loss of bees last winter was
from dysentery from the
old bees with the combs full.
It lets look at our most important
resource. Water and food and what it
takes to produce them.

Yours by
Edith Tucker

Frank Ceda
3200 SCR 29
Loveland, CO 80537
July 5, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8548
Missoula, MT. 59807

Rec'd MISSOULA OFFICE 7-8-83

Dear Senator Melcher,

I feel very strongly that the proposed Swan Crest wilderness should became protected as a wilderness area. I was raised in the Flathead valley and left to pursue an engineering career. I would have preferred to remain in Montana but certainly not at the expense of exploiting its wild areas. Montanas greatest assets are her roadless areas. They provide many long term benefits, many of which are not obvious to us now in 1983. 100 years from now there would be little benefit if the Swan area were logged. However our grandchildren will be thankful for every tree left in a natural state.

I fly by the Swan Range every year on my way to the Flathead. It is so breath taking that I take pictures every year - of the same peaks! I wish that all of the

senators and congressman could make this flight and then view the clearcut logged areas to the north. I'm sure that the wilderness would be a shoe in!

Let's bring in some clean high tech industry into Montana to provide some of those jobs along with some people who really appreciate the natural assets. Let's remember that all americans own the Swan Crest area and let them be considered along with those that stand to benefit financially.

Regards

Frank Ceda

Frank Ceda

note. please make this letter a part of the hearing records. Thankyou

1300 Polaris Road I 4R
Dillon, Mt. 59725
July 11, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Public Lands Sub Committee
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We want to have this statement introduced into the hearing record for Rare II hearing in Montana.

For four generations our family has been grazing cattle on the Gallatin Allotment in the Beaverhead National Forest which is within the Rare II proposed wilderness area.

The Forest Service has been evaluating roadless areas in Beaverhead County for the last 10 years. They have already made two very costly reports and recommendations without any legislative action being taken. The waste of our time and our tax money is ridiculous. Congress should act immediately to settle the Rare II issue and release those lands not identified for Wilderness.

We do not want any additional Wilderness in Montana or specifically in Beaverhead County

(2)

Montana now has 5,133,353 acres of single use lands. Natural resources are the very backbone of our economy. Without the ability to use these minerals, jobs and our special way of life in Montana will be lost.

Please Senator Melcher, do everything possible to stop any further Roadless study and any further Wilderness designations in Beaverhead County and in Montana.

Respectfully.

The J. Dwight Hansen family.
J. Dwight - Ruth
R. Wayne - Kay
Ted J. - Joyce
John A. - Donna

Bonnie J Ranch
STAR ROUTE 1 BOX 188 TROUT CREEK, MONTANA 59874

Jimmie & Eilean Wilson

FAR

June 10, 1985

Senator John Melcher
Missoula, Mt.

Dear Senator Melcher,

I would like the opportunity to testify at your Senate Hearing concerning Wilderness Areas on July 5th 1985.

Please notify me as soon as you can.

Sincerely,
Jimmie Wilson

827-3623

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 933
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

June 20, 1983.

FJR

The Honorable Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please accept my comments, as follows, concerning
- B.A. Marshall Wilderness Completion Bill -

I wish to express that I strongly support efforts to complete the B.A. Marshall area Wilderness complex.

As such area contains outstanding wilderness, scenic, wild life, fish, historic and cultural resources. Resources of esoteric material and intrinsic material significance. And very important segments of our nations natural heritage areas that provide a vital refuge for Man and for all life, on this endangered planet.

Any acceptable "B.A. Marshall Wilderness completion Bill" state of Montana, must include the following provisions;

- Combine the B.A. Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness units, plus,
  Uniting contiguous Roadless areas, into a single;
  A B.A. Marshall Canadian Wilderness of some 2,475,000 acres.
  With a 150,000 acres in a Wilderness Recovery Zone;
  to be added to this wilderness when Restored

  A Lewis and Clark National Wilderness Park of some 2,850,000 acres.
  With a Dringly Bear Wilderness of some 2,650,000 acres
  located in this Park;
  which includes each B.A. Marshall Canadian.

For whom are these Wilderness's, else Bear America!

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 822
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

June 28, 1983

The Honorable Gordon Nicholson
United States Senate ; Montana
Missoula, Montana 59807

MISSOULA OFFICE
7-5-83

Dear Senator Nicholson:

Please add my comments, enclosed, to the Official Hearing Record concerning
the Road less areas remaining on the National Forest System lands in the State of Montana.

Check out existing in our State of Montana, of this time, Wilderness & memory of the town opinion that such block continues & contain substantial wilderness - as such is obvious, such like fish, bisons and cultural uniqueness of certain national and international importance. Humans that are a significant portion of our natural natural heritage. Areas that provide a vital refuge for Man, and Wildlife, on this endangered planet
Each an irreplaceable portion of such natural heritage lands - entire lands in the National Forest System roadless lands in this
State of Montana
Roads, the road less lands, as we remember, by our Forest Service in Montana, is of certain wilderness character
Wilderness lands which given wilderness protection to maintain the natural, the beauty and the need of rock mountains.
as wilderness provides the natural forces and environment, so that our many resources, plant and animal species as a free people
in a free land.
And if we are to reach such wilderness, one, then, we should our decisions.
Should become augmented with the road less lands in the National Forest System in Montana nearly thirty years ago.
and after so many decades of interaction with these pristine areas I urge that the following areas be afforded wilderness.
For the Missoula Area records in early 1983.

I the following R.L. - roadless Road less areas located on the National Forest System lands in Montana & be classified as wilderness and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. With respect (& actions in letter and Opening):

- Northwest - Back Loop complex including Stake 25,000
- Bunkly complex 10,000
- Cal - Ivory 35,000
- Lost Hill 30,000
- Sun Lake 40,000
- Absaroka Mountains Wilderness Additions, Only. 80,000
- Black moon Peaks complex including Stakes 105,000
- Snow Cliff complex 25,000
- Trout Creek complex including Stake 70,000
- Tobacco complex 45,000
- Mc Gregor Thompson 95,000
- Swift - Empire complex 23,000
- Stevensville, Sula - Selby - Blackwell complex 90,000
- Darby - Lick complex 95,000
- Blodgett 35,000
- Robertson 45,000
- Woodchuck 50,000
- Jo Bar 9,500
- Tally 5,000
- Rumble Creek complex 15,000
- Red Top 7,000
- Richards Mountain 35,000
- Main Creek complex 35,000
- Bowles Peak complex 30,000
- Sand Creek 12,000
- Silver Mountain complex 30,000
- Bear Wash 15,000
- Bowlby 12,000
- Mount Baldy 29,000
- Secesh complex 100,000
- Hill 12,000
- Hawk 10,000
- Rhine Mountain complex including Stake 110,000
- Bucktail complex 27,000
- Hoodoo complex including Stake 275,000
- Cattle Snake Wilderness Additions, Only 29,000
- Railway Mountain Wilderness Additions, Only Both Only Mountain 145,000
- Glen Lake Mountain Only Mountain 65,000.

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 983
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

Page Two:

- Allen Mountain including Idaho 185,000
- Boggy Lime Complex including the Bureau of Land Mgmt. unit 340,000
- Wilderness Area Wilderness additions Only. 12,000
- Black Range Complex 80,000
- Bison Mt. Complex including Bim 485,000
- Bitterroot Complex including Bim 57,500
- Buffalo-Pine Mt. Wilderness additions Only. 110,000
- Anderson Complex including Idaho 90,000
- Bull Run Mts. Complex including Idaho and Bim 340,000
- Bighorn Peaks Complex including Idaho and Bim 395,000
- Bighorn Mountains Complex including Idaho and Bim 85,000
- Bighorn Complex including Bim 90,000
- Bighorn Peaks Complex including Bim 130,000 +
- Black Hawks Complex 35,000
- Black Hills Complex 95,000
- Electric Peaks 60,000
- Elkhorn including Bim 115,000
- Gallatin Complex 25,000
- Gravelly Complex including Bim 145,000
- Bighorn Mountains Wilderness additions Only. Complex 60,000
- Big Belt Mountains Complex 175,000
- Missouri Mountains Wilderness additions Only. Complex 35,000
- Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness additions Only. Complex including Bim 950,000.
- Big Belt Mtns. Complex including Bim 1260,000
- Bridger Range Complex including Bim 60,000
- Granger Mountains Complex 180,000
- Cattle Complex 40,000
- Little Belt Mountains Complex including Bim 495,000
- Middle Fork Judith 95,000
- Highwoods Complex 92,000
- Big Snowy - Little Snowy Mountains Complex including Bim 137,000
- Absaroka - Beartooth Wilderness additions only Complex, including Bim and Bim 330,000
- Ranger Mountains Complex including Bim Only Mountains. 50,000
- Castle Mountains 15,000
- Crazy Peaks Complex including Bim 47,000
- Lower Deer Judith 850
- East Pioneers Complex 7,500

Around 1/4 of these areas with suitable Extensions; plus, additional areas are well worthy to be designated as Wilderness Areas in Montana. Such as the following units as Complex, roking and with acreage;

△ Glacier Park National Monument 400,000. Wilderness 200,000.
Part of Glacier National Park, No Canada Area.

△ Montana Complex National Wilderness Park 300,000. Wilderness 130,000.
Mountains and Lakes in Montana and Northern National Forests. To combine this Park with Great Parks and Preserves, with Lakes and Rivers, Great Areas, Lakes and Mountains, etc.; British Columbia, and the Mountain Centers, Waterfalls, Wildlife Park & some 10000,000 Acres.

△ Montana Pioneer Days National Wilderness Park 2,850,000. Wilderness 2650000.
Ex. Scapegoat, Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Bisque Great Wilderness Areas, plus, Extensions.
Of the Wilderness dedicated as the Bob Marshall Complex Wilderness.

△ Lower Yellowstone River National Wildlife Park 225,000. Wilderness 150000 and 6 sq. to the mountain 115,000.

△ Missouri Mountains National Monument 500,000. Wilderness 235,000.
including Flat Head Indian Reservation; portions of - in Eastern half.

△ Humpty Dome National Recreation Area 165,000. Wilderness 55,000. and 15 sq. to Flat 30,000.

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 983
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

Page Three.

▲ Glen Canyon National Monument 1,600,000. Wilderness 1345000
Primarily in Idaho. So combine Pioneer, Mallard-Larkins and Big Horn Crags areas.

▲ Gearge Washington National Monument 610,000 Wilderness 485,000

▲ Yellowstone National Monument 1,495,000. Wilderness 1260000.
Located in the Gallatin, Absaroka, Beartooth and Lamar Ranges.
With the Wilderness dedicated as the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

▲ Grand Teton National Park 1376000. Wilderness 1260000
So expand the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Jim, Emissions.

▲ Glacier National Monument 175,000. Wilderness 115,000 and ½ adj to total 130,000.

▲ Cabinet Mountains National Monument 210,000 Wilderness 140,000
Located in Montana and Idaho.

▲ Death Valley National Park complex 1,500,000. Wilderness 600,000. and ½ adj to total 1000,000
Located North and South, each East, of the Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

▲ Glacier Park National Monument complex. 200,000 Wilderness 115,000
Located in area surrounding Dillon, Montana.

▲ Black Hill - Badlands National Monument 250,000 Wilderness 100,000 and ½ adj to total 130,000
Located East of Glacier National Park, including Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

▲ Petrified Forest National Park Monument 210,000. Wilderness 45,000 and ½ adj to total 70,000
X (With a Petrified Forest National Park Monument in Wyoming 150,000. Wilderness 40,000) X

✓ Assume that the U.S. Dept Wilderness is for normally managed as a roadless-wilderness, only. and that such Wilderness, expanded to total 35,000 acres without any roads, of U.S. Bank National Wildlife Refuge.

✓ So write the Yellowstone Country National Wilderness Sanctuary of some 12,000,000 Acres to 15,000,000 Acres
With all lands in such Sanctuary to be classified as National Parks and National Monuments.

So assume all inholdings in all federal public land are under mining.

So Ban all forms of cruelness and exploitive hunting must in all Monuments and Protected Wilderness.
With No Release of any roadless areas; no. they must be preserved and added to Wilderness units.

For when we save Wilderness, we save America!

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson.

Dear Senator Burns,

I live near the northwest corner of Choteau County, Montana. Back and overlooking the Mt. Head and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. Both of these roadless areas have been recommended for wilderness designation by the Alternative "W" F. I greatly value the opportunity to hike, observe wildlife, fish and hunt in these wild areas of Montana's Rocky Mountains and many other outdoor enthusiasts throughout the state share my sentiments. Contributing substantially to Montana's income through tourism and hunting/fishing expenditures. Once a wilderness is roaded and manipulated, its wild character is lost forever. Only Congress can designate wilderness so I am requesting your help in protecting Montana's remaining wildlands, particularly the 2.2 million acres recommended for wilderness designation by the "Alternative W" that have not granted wilderness status in the RARE II.

An important issue is the form of "release" that these recommended wilderness lands would take. Hard release would be very detrimental, totally preventing any remaining roadless lands from ever being considered again for wilderness designation. Soft release is the only compromise that has been accepted by Congress for the Eagle Cap, Mt. Jefferson, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, West Virginia and Florida. Please support soft release of these lands, giving them interim wilderness designation.

As a wildlife biologist I am aware that wildlife speaks a language all its own. Government officials of the land managing agencies such as the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have set aside large areas of land strictly for wildlife habitat and to preserve the natural setting. It has been fortunate enough to be thrilled by the sight of grizzlies, wolf, wolverine and other secretive species in remote areas of the National Forests including the Mission, Hefty and Tuchuck areas. Let's not further diminish their habitat and chance of survival by building the few remaining roadless areas in Montana. I support "Alternative A" and hope you will too.

Please include my written testimony in the official hearing record.

Sincerely,

Diane Boyd

Diane Boyd
Moose City Cabins
Pablo, Mt. 59855

MISSOULA Office
Rec'd 7-19-83

7/17/83

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing to submit written testimony concerning the fate of Montana's remaining wildlands. I support "Alternative W". I think setting aside 7% of Montana to remain forever wild is not too much. In fact, I think in the long run it will pay off in tourist dollars. Montana will become increasingly famous as the wildest state outside of Alaska.

I have hiked or backpacked to many of the areas under consideration: the Selway-Bitterroot,

Absaroka-Beartooth, Anaconda-Pintlar, 2
the East Pioneers, etc. I hope
to visit many more in years
to come.

I also support "soft release"
of the remaining roadless
areas.

Sincerely,
Susan G. Smith

Susan Smith
708 Adirondac Ave.
Hamilton, MT 59840

Please include this letter in the
official hearing record.

Senator John Melcher
[illegible]
[illegible] MT. 59301

July 5th 1983

RECEIVED MISSOULA OFFICE
7-8-83

Dear John, Max, Pat, & Ron

I would like to express my support for Alternative "W". Especially I would like to support the Cube Iron-Mt. Silcox Area.

I am a resident of Thompson Falls, Mt. and have seen first hand what dependence on one aspect of the forest resource can do to a local economy. I don't have to tell you what the unemployment rate was here over the last 2½ years.

One way to diversify our economy is to provide a base for the development of recreation. The only area left on our end of the Lolo forest that can provide the type of "First Class," recreational opportunity on which an area can draw is the Cube Iron-Mt. Silcox Area.

This area is readily accessable and yet provides an Alpine, "Wilderness," Experience, it provides opportunities for fishing, hunting, trail riding, and hiking. Easily Reached and within three miles of Thompson Falls, this area is a unique opportunity to create an accessable, useful Wilderness area, consistant with the "Multiple Use," concept.

The Timber market is the major barometer of this areas economy. With a diversification of resource use we have a chance at a stable local economy. Cut all the timber and we become another bust in the boom-bust cycle. Trees don't grow here as fast as their cut.

I hope you understand that I am not anti-logger. We all need jobs.

Over

The Area mentioned in the preceding paragraphs is of personal importance to my family and community. The other areas under study are less familiar to me but of no less importence. Please support a continued Montana Tradition of stewardship. The concept of soft release in the disposition of these areas is highly reccomended. Hard release only closes doors. Possibly too quickly.

Thanks for your time

H William Smith & Family

H W Smith

June 30th, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59807

MISSOULA OFFICE
7-2-83

Dear Sir:

I would like to submit the following written testimony to the hearing that the Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee in Missoula, Mont. on July 5, 1983. I request that the testimony be included in the official hearing record.

I would like to voice my support for "Alternative W" which Montana conservationists have proposed. I believe preserving as much pristine land as possible as wilderness is the soundest thing to do in Montana both from an economic and environmental standpoint. Protection of our beautiful natural resources is the best investment for the future. By doing this, Montana has and will have treasures that few other areas can claim. People (tourists, hikers, fishermen, hunters, photographers, etc.) will continue to come to Montana as long as we have large blocks of land designated as Wilderness. Areas not designated as Wilderness should not be subject to quick intensive development but to thoughtful, careful, environmentally sound use. I endorse the "soft release" concept for roadless areas not designated as wilderness.

[redacted]

FTR

Rt. 2, Box 93B
Stevensville, MT. 59870
July 18, 1983

MISSOULA OFFICE
7-20-83

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, MT. 59807

Dear Senator Melcher,

Please include this letter as part of the hearing record for the wilderness hearing held in Missoula, July 5, 1983.

We support the proposal that has been referred to as "alternative W", which would protect approximately 2.3 million acres of Montana's finest land as wilderness; the land, we might add, which makes Montana, "Montana".

Several areas which we feel deserve special mention are:

1) Great Burn, on the Montana - Idaho border, and which requires action by the Idaho delegation as well. This area not only needs wilderness protection, but we know of no other area which is more suited or deserving of it.

2) Bob Marshall additions. — this area, more than any other, along with its neighbor, Glacier Park, symbolize Montana, to Montana and the nation. We've been chipping away at the edges for years, and these additions represent our last chance to legalize what is actually the

wilderness area we now have and enjoy. These additions include Deep Creek, Renshaw Mtn., Monture, and Falls Creek, Swan Front, Seton River and Chateau Mtn.

3) Selway-Bitterroot additions — several areas along the east face of the Bitterroots are really part of this wilderness and should be managed as such. If this area is not classified, the likely result will be more disputes over logging on the Bitterroot face. Timber volumes here are low and economic values are often negative.

4) Beaverhead National Forest areas in West Big Hole, West Pioneers, East Pioneers, and Pintler Wilderness additions. These areas have long been proposed for wilderness. Wilderness classification is needed to insure protection, reduce government expenditures (for roads, timber management, etc.), and to continue the many benefits we now get at very low cost from these areas. Total wilderness acreage would be about 340,000 acres.

5) Other areas deserving specific mention are Crazy Mountains, Tobacco Root Mountains, Sheep Mountain, Quigg Peak, Flint Creek Range, Italian Peaks, Scotchman Peak, Stony Mountain, and Nevada Mountain.

In this bill, areas not designated as wilderness should be considered in the forest planning process for ALL possible uses. No options should be foreclosed. We do not support Reagan's proposal to preclude these lands from being considered for wilderness in the future.

27-608 O - 84 - 73

Wilderness is vital to Montana. Not only is it a great economic benefit, i.e. clean water, fishing, hunting, outfitters and guides, boaters, tourism, etc. But it is a part of us, our uniqueness as a state. The areas above are, in fact, now part of our wilderness (de facto). We must keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Kirk Thompson
Lisa Thompson

#123

402 So. Fifth East,
Missoula, MT 59801

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7/20/83

20 July 1983

Dear Senator Melcher,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my views on the issue of wilderness designation in Montana.

I think that now, while we still have wilderness available, we should be far-sighted and set aside the maximum possible Wilderness Area.

At no time in the future is our society going to have a better opportunity to designate wilderness, which is a decreasing commodity. Every year lost to the opportunity of designation as wilderness means the loss of some land unprotected by the Wilderness Act. In the years to come our need for wilderness will at least meet present demands and will more likely exceed them. We need therefore to look beyond the present generation and its clamours.

A designation as Wilderness Area is the only decision which will hold all future options on the land open. In the event of doubt existing about which designation is most appropriate for a piece of land Wilderness Area is what it should be made.

We in Montana are doubly blessed with Wilderness Areas and wildlands of other sorts. At this time of decision though we should also think of our position from national, and even international, perspective. Wilderness lands in Montana are some of the only suitable lands anywhere which have the prospect of protection

2/

under the Wilderness Act.

For these reasons I urge you to support the designation of the maximum possible area of land as Wilderness Area. In order of priority for designation, in my opinion, are the Crazy Mountains, areas which link existing Wilderness Areas, areas which extend or include critical habitat (for endangered, threatened or rare biota), and finally areas which extend existing Wilderness Areas.

The Wilderness Act possesses the rare combination of practicality and magnaminity. To apply it in the spirit in which it was composed I feel we need to be magnanimous too.

Yours faithfully,

David Findlay Scott

DAVID FINDLAY SCOTT

For inclusion as written testimony for Anaconda hearings.

July 17, 1983 - 3 pr -

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Mt. 59807

Dear Senator Melcher:

We would like to express our support for adding all of the potential new wilderness areas to Montana's National Forests.

The primary reason we moved to Montana and purchased land here was this state's unspoiled wilderness and the wildlife it supports.

I believe that the recreational opportunities that wilderness areas provide will become increasingly important in the future. We need more wilderness added to all our national forests to help insure that existing wilderness areas won't become crowded and lose their appeal to tourists seeking places of solitude.

We need these additional areas preserved as wilderness because they are important big game habitats, and

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-19-83

especially because they harbor many endangered and threatened species, which Montana is still fortunate enough to have.

I read in a Tucson paper the other day that tourism is the second largest industry in Arizona. Recreation and tourism will play an increasingly important role in Montana's economy, but we must preserve the wildness we now have left.

Please make our comments part of the official hearing record, and we sincerely urge you to support the addition of all proposed areas to Montana's wilderness system.

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. K L. Posten
1280 Bull Pine Dr.
Hamilton, Mt. 59840

FH

Phone 406-754-2451

DAVID T. BERNER, M.D.
Condon, Montana 59826

June 25, 1983

Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands
of
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
c/o Senator John Melcher

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please accept this comment for the record on your Wilderness Hearing in Missoula July 5, 1983.

It is my fervent hope that our Congress will support "Alternative W" for the future of Montana and our nation. More specifically may I encourage inclusion of the Swan Front, Monture Creek, and Northern Swan Crest areas in our Wilderness System. The Flathead National Forest plans to double their road mileage, increase logging, burning, herbicide use, and log steeper slopes during the next decade. Coupled with the extensive Burlington-Northern logging impact on our state, it is small wonder that we worry about our wildlife, scenery, and tranquility, particularly in the Swan Valley and contiguous areas. There can be no economic justification for not preserving more of Montana than presently slated. If

Phone 406-754-2451

DAVID T. BERNER, M.D.
Condon, Montana 59826

there is to be a healthy future for our native flora and fauna and for the millions of humans who have come and will come to share our natural wonders, brave decisions must be made now. I hope our Congress will demonstrate that foresight and courage. We need "Alternative W", additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the compromise of "soft release" of the additional roadless areas. Please — before it's too late!

Thank you for your consideration and for your interest in Montana and America.

Sincerely,

David Berner

K.D. Feeback
Wellsite Geologist

P.O. Box 194 Lincoln, Montana 59639 Ph. (406) 362-4823

18 June 1993
Williston North Dakota
P.O. 2017 58801

Dear Sir,

I am unable to be present at the Wilderness hearings to be conducted in Great Falls July 9 as I much work and will be out of town. This grieves me deeply as I would certainly consider it an honor to stand as a support for our Montana heritage of wild lands, both as part time outfitter and professional geologist.

There is no intelligent case to be made for opposing 'Utterstrom W' in Montana or anything but but 'soft release' of the remaining lands under consideration.

There are no natural resources or economic justifications for losing on even a portion of Montana's (hence the US) wild habitat to any manner of development or any but the most minimal 'management' techniques.

Please read my heartfelt message at the meeting or take it to heart yourself.

Regards
K.D. Feeback

July 5th, 1983

Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
c/o Senator John Melcher.

Dear Senator Melcher,

I respectfully submit some comments and a plea with regard to the 1983 Wilderness Hearings.

First my plea which is that your committee and our legislators reflect upon the legacy which we have already inflicted upon our descendants – acid lakes, toxic dumps, poisoned air and water and unmanageable nuclear wastes – and that you find the conviction and courage to stand up and fight to give them something which we have not yet ruined to help compensate for that which we have.

You have the opportunity to help make amends with the preservation of our greatest resource.

My comments include very strong feelings that the attitude of our present administration necessitates a great deal more impetus from our Congress in taking a strong stand in favor of the proposed "Alternative W" as well as the so called "Soft release" for additional wild and roadless areas.

You are well aware that Montana's wilderness, unique wildlife and quality of life are its strengths. Unfortunately it doesn't take much to undermine those strengths. Even more unfortunate is the fact that we tend to blunder ahead with multible experiments, doing what we think is right, often repeating serious mistakes, allowing our advanced technology to override common sense and impatience to usurp experience.

Present logging practices reflect this attitude — they include waste, irresponsible use of pesticides and herbicides and little regard for streambeds and water absorbing surfaces.

New threats to our fragile areas are constant and, in fact, already planned — but one example being the proposed B.P.A. mini-hydro projects on large numbers of our mountain streams.

The fertile human mind will never cease to experiment and the quantity and quality of its mistakes are awesome.

With this in mind is there a truly sane alternative to not only preserving our wildlands (and wetlands) but the addition of every possible acre to serve as a buffer between equilibrium and exploitation?

The Swan Front comes to mind as a prime buffer zone and economic asset to this State.

Steep slopes impractical for logging, innumerable drainages, high mountain lakes and valleys, many accesses to "The Bob", rare as well as endangered wildlife and important migration routes and partial wintering grounds for our game animals.

The diversity of the Bitterroot and Monture Creek and the well documented and vital wildlife priorities of the Deep Creek area make them prime candidates as well.

In fact, all of the proposed wilderness areas are crucial, each in its own right.

The estimated and projected figures on tourism and recreation alone indicate justification for preserving more wilderness areas than we have to date.

And one cannot help but wonder what steps may have been taken had the proposed sale of our federal land not met with such widespread resistance - or may still be taken at some future time.

There can be no doubt that this is a crucial time for foresight, courage and perseverance in the stewardship of our precious and irreplaceable heritage.

Sincerely yours,
Caroline S. Benner

Condon, Mt.

July 5th, 1983

Dear Senator Melcher,

we have become aware that many people in favor of "Alternative W" and the "soft release" have been discouraged from submitting letters because of the statement from your office.

The word came down that no less than 15 copies of each letter were acceptable if they were to be included in the hearing records and most were unwilling or unable to comply with these orders.

we feel that this was an unfortunate situation which should not have happened as this would surely favor anti-wilderness groups who could better afford copying machines or have greater access to same.

Sincerely,

Caroline Berner

Condon, Mt.

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-13-83

FR

To- Senator Melcher

I request that the following comments be included in the official hearing record:

July 8
1983

I strongly support "Alternative W" which would protect 2.2 million acres as Wilderness.

I have led hikes into the fragile watershed area of the Blue Joint for several years.

I have be ditch rider, fished and live up the Lost Horse Canyon.

And I have hiked, fished, and lived up the Blodget area canyon.

I have personal friends who are professional photographers, fishing outfitters and hunting outfitters and am aware of how important our back country is to Montana's economy.

Since I was born here I have spent over 28 years in Montana and I also know how important protection of our watersheds is to the survival of a sane and healthy environment for mankind.

I have a personal friend who is a Wilderness Ranger and I am aware of the increased impact and use our Wilderness areas are receiving and how important it will be to our future to preserve Wilderness areas.

Last- I urge "soft release" of the remaining 3 million acres of roadless areas.

Sincerely

De Anne Harbaugh
Hamilton, Montana

FTR

July 8, 1983
822 5th Ave
Helena, MT

FTR

Senators Melcher and Baucus
Representatives Williams and Marlenee
Congressional Delegation
State of Montana

Dear Congressmen:

I request that you enter this letter as official testimony at the Great Falls hearing to consider Wilderness proposals.

I would like to indicate my support for "Alternative H," which recommends additions to eight existing wilderness areas and the creation of twenty-one new areas. I am most concerned with the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Addition and the Mt Baldy area in the Helena National Forest, both of which are areas in which I have spent considerable time hiking and camping. In the Rocky Mountain Front, specifically the Deep Creek area, I have seen herds of mountain sheep and have observed grizzly signs, and feel strongly that both the wild nature of Deep Creek itself and the undisturbed nature of the wildlife there should be preserved.

I encourage you to prepare legislation that will protect Montana's few remaining wild areas and save them for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Halsor

ER

Susan L. Marsh
P.O. Box 973
Bozeman MT 59715
7 July 1983

Senator John Melcher
and Committee members
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Gentlemen:

I am a landscape architect living and working in Bozeman, Montana. I submit the following testimony to be entered into the hearing records:

I wish to express my support for a statewide omnibus bill for designation of additional Wilderness Areas in Montana. I endorse a proposal that is referred to as "Alternative W", which was drafted during a period of several years in response to the U.S. Forest Service's second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II). I believe the legislation that will be written following these hearings gives us a great opportunity to preserve some important wild land in Montana.

In my opinion, "Alternative W" represents a workable compromise, providing protection for 2.2 million acres throughout the state, as well as releasing 3 million acres of presently roadless land to roading, timber production, and other kinds of development. This proposal would preserve some of Montana's most outstanding

and threatened wildlands, including critical habitat for the threatened grizzly bear and endangered grey wolf and woodland caribou. These species and many others depend on diverse habitat, including large undisturbed areas in late-successional forest. Alternative W would do much to help preserve their habitat, as would it allow development on suitable, non-conflicting land. Unlike most other states, Montana still has a chance to protect viable communities of plants and animals in their entirety, if we are willing to enact far sighted legislation now.

If we were to allocate Wilderness areas purely on the basis of human recreational desires, we would see a general increase in demand in most of our existing areas. The impact of human use in some areas suggests that we need both an increase in visitor management and a larger land base allocated to Wilderness. We need to allocate and manage so that healthy, self-perpetuating ecosystems are able to withstand human use within them, and I think that requires us to take the conservative view in determining how much Wilderness is "enough."

It may seem to us in Montana that we have vast areas of wildlands. But if viewed on a national scale, it seems to me that we are about to decide the future use of what amounts to the last few remnants of a wild continent. I believe we need to keep intact as many of those remnants as possible, for the scientific and educational values they contain, for the

safe-keeping of wildlife, water quality, and soil productivity, but most of all, so there will never come a time when we humans will know and dominate all of the land. There needs to be some wild land left, where the forces of nature are allowed to dictate change without our help. I strongly believe that, and I can't give you a very rational or non-emotional reason why. I do not want to see the issue of wilderness reduced to a squabble among recreational users or backpackers vs. loggers it is much more than that, although difficult to verbalize. I know that if we preserve our priceless wildlands today, our children will surely thank us for our vision.

For those National Forest lands that will not be considered under this legislation for wilderness, I strongly suggest they be "released" for the next NFMA planning period only. The possibility should remain that these areas may someday be considered.

Let me summarize by reiterating my support for alternative W in its entirety. I appreciate the opportunity you have provided for me to express my views on this issue.

Sincerely,
Susan L. Marsh

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-20-83

STEVE LOKEN
P.O. BOX 8872
MISSOULA, MT. 59807
JULY 18, 1983

SENATOR JOHN MELCHER
MISSOULA FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 8568
MISSOULA, MT. 59807

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER;

I WAS UNABLE TO TESTIFY AT THE WILDERNESS HEARING IN MISSOULA, ON JULY 5, BUT I WOULD ASK THAT YOU PLEASE INCLUDE THIS WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN THE OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD.

I LIVED UP IN LIBBY AND TROY FOR SEVEN YEARS, BEFORE MOVING TO MISSOULA. IN THAT LENGTH OF TIME, I BECAME VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE MOUNTAINS RIVERS AND BACKCOUNTRY OF LINCOLN AND SANDERS COUNTIES. I WORKED AS A HYDROLOGIST FOR THE KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST, AND WORKED IN THE WOODS AND RIVERS OF THAT COUNTRY, A GREAT DEAL.

I AM WRITING TO STRONGLY ENDORSE ALTERNATIVE "W", TO PROTECT WHAT FEW REMAINING ROADLESS AREAS ARE STILL LEFT. IT'S LIKE MONEY IN THE BANK! IT COULD ALWAYS BE DEVELOPED LATER, IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BUT FOR RIGHT NOW, I PROVIDES NATIONALLY FAMOUS HIKING, FISHING, HUNTING, AND SCENIC ATTRACTIONS. AS I WRITE THIS, I THINK OF THE ROADLESS AREAS

II

I AM INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH: THE CABINET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, HOPEFULLY WITH THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS ON THE PERIMETER — PRIME GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT ALREADY ENDANGERED WITH ASARCO, AND U.S. BORAX EXPLORATION OF MINERALS.

THE SCOTCHMAN PEAKS, WITH PELLICK RIDGE — A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES, TARNS, AND RIDGE VIEWS OF MOUNTAIN SHEEP, GOATS, AND ELK.

I COULD GO ON, AND ON — I'VE BEEN THROUGH ABOUT 65% OF THE ROADLESS AREAS NOW ON YOUR DECISION LIST, ALL OF THEM UNIQUE AND IRREPLACEABLE.

IF NOT WILDERNESS TODAY, THEN AT LEAST A RECONSIDERATION "SOFT RELEASE" OF THESE [redacted] LANDS THROUGH THE NEXT 15 YEAR PLANNING CYCLE.

THESE AREAS DO NOT CONTAIN ECONOMIC STASHES OF TIMBER — THATS WHY THEY WERE LEFT UNTOUCHED. THE ARGUMENT OF "JOBS" PALES WHEN ONE CONSIDERS WHAT A FEW INTEREST POINTS ON HOME LOANS DID TO JOBS IN THIS COUNTRY — ITS NOT THE AVAILABILITY OF TREES TO CUT!

PLEASE PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE "W" FOR MYSELF, AND MY CHILDREN.

THANK YOU,
STEVE K. LOKEN

MISSOULA OFFICE
Rec'd 7-18-83

867 North Main
Kalispell, MT 59901

Senator John Melcher
Missoula Field Office
P.O. Box 8568
Missoula, Montana 59807

July 11, 1983

Dear Senator Melcher,

Please enter this letter into the official hearing record of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources concerning future wilderness designation in Montana.

The RARE II process identified over 5 million acres of undeveloped National Forest land in Montana. Not all of these acres deserve wilderness classification but certainly the Forest Service's recommendation of some 686,000 acres is inadequate. A more adequate and realistic approach is the Alternative W proposed being offered by a coalition of Montana conservation groups. This alternative classifies about 2.2 million acres as wilderness and releases about 3 million acres from wilderness classification thru the next National Forest planning cycle.

The fact that more acres will be released than classified shows the conservative approach towards wilderness classification taken by the supporters of Alternative W. Only areas with high wilderness resource values are recommended for classification. Many undeveloped areas with equally high wilderness values have not been recommended for wilderness classification because of competing resource values. I know this to be true, because over the last 25 years, I have

visited many of the areas in question and am familiar with the claims of competing resources. To be precise, I am most familiar with the Bob Marshall Additions, the Swan Crest, The Tuchuck—Holly - Thompson—Selon country, The Scotchman Peaks, the Cabinets and the Selway - Bitterroot Additions.

My on-the-ground experience convinces me that Alternative W is a realistic, conservative approach which deserves serious attention. I realize that not all resource conflicts can be avoided but I believe that Alternative W already shows the results of many compromises. I believe its adoption in a statewide wilderness bill will help preserve our way of life here in Montana as well as provide a unique base for our expanding tourist trade.

I also believe that any statewide wilderness bill should adopt the release language used in the wilderness bills for Colorado, Alaska and New Mexico. This type of release would bar wilderness classification for released lands for the next 15 years of the National Forest planning cycle but not bar it from being considered in future forest plans.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hull

JERRY SCHAUB
BOX 277
TREGO, MONT.
59934

MISSOULA OFFICE
6-29-83

June 25, 1983 FHR

Box 277
TREGO, MONT.
59934

Dear Sen Melcher:

I would like to have the statement entered for the records.

I support all area considered for Wilderness and I hope you will too. This is our last chance to save our pristine areas of Montana. Please support S Montana W.

Wilderness is important to economy of Montana as many people use the Wilderness Areas.

Please advocate "soft release" of the remaining areas in Montana (3 million Acres).

I am very familiar with Parts of the Lolo, Flathead, Gallatin, Beaverhead Forests and Bitterroot National Forests. Any

.175

We would like to see even more Wilderness Area than those Proposed by Alternative W.

We must save our Forests for our Future and for the Future of America. I am sure you will agree with future generations of Americans will look up for saving these small segments of the last Great American West.

We have dominated most of the land, now we must save some areas where we can remain ourselves in Mind & Body.

Please support all Areas for Wilderness. Thank you

Very Sincerely,

Jerry L. Schaub
(SCHAUB)

FSR

MISSOULA OFFICE
6-25-83

Box 114
Noxon, Mt. 59853
June 22, 1983

Senator Melcher,

I would like to give a written testimony for the wilderness hearing to be held in Missoula on July 5.

I support "Alternative W" which would protect much of the wilderness areas in our forests. Living near the Cabinet Wilderness area, I know much of it is being explored for minerals. This area needs as much protection as it can get.

Wilderness attracts tourism to our state. I have personally hiked and fished in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, West Big Hole Mts.,

27-608 O - 84 - 74

125

East and West Pioneer Mts., and the Cabinet Mts. I would hate to see these beautiful areas left unprotected.

I urge Montana's Congressional Delegation to advocate "soft release" of the remaining 3 million acres of roadless land not endorsed for wilderness by conservationists

Sincerely,
Bonnie Reishus

July 8, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Great Falls Field Office
104 4th Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Melcher:

Recently I had an opportunity to hike and explore in an area proposed as an addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness — the area known as "Deep Creek." I was most impressed that this area has remained almost totally unspoiled by any type of development. I become convinced that the Deep Creek area deserves complete protection under ~~the~~ wilderness designation, and would like to encourage you to do all in your power to make this possible.

I understand that this letter can be entered into the wilderness hearing record in Great Falls. Please also make note that I am in full support of "Alternative W" which has been proposed by Montana conservationists.

Sincerely,

Nancy McLane
621 Third St.
Helena, Montana
59601

621 3rd street
Helena, MT 59601

July 8, 1983

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing about wilderness areas in Montana, in connection with the hearings you are currently holding.

I strongly favor protecting more public land with the wilderness designation. I believe that the so-called "alternative W" is a reasonable proposal, given the importance of relatively undisturbed wild lands for recreational use, habitat preservation, their cultural and psychological values, and to help assure genetic diversity. These benefits outweigh the often speculative economic values the lands may have.

I have personally hiked in the Deep Creek area of the Rocky Mountain Front, among others. It definitely deserves wilderness designation, as do other areas I am familiar with, like the Gates of the Mountains addition.

I hope you will support the most extensive possible additions to the Wilderness System in Montana.

Please make this letter part of the official hearing record. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Adam McLane

Dear Sen Melcher; 7-20

I am writing concerning the Rare II Wilderness Bill: Please!! we do not want any logging operations in the West Big Hole River area, nor the East & West Pioneer Mountains, or the Mussigbrod Howell Creek area.

The Big Hole River watershed is badly affected already.

Please: let these comments be made part of your hearing record.

Thank You,

Sincerly

Joureen M. Clark
607 E 4TH
Anaconda, Mt
59711

July 18-1983

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing concerning the Rare II Wilderness Bill! Please!! we do not want any logging operations in the West Big Hole River area nor the East & West Pioneer mountains or the Mussigbrod-Howell Creek area. The Big Hole River Watershed is badly affected already.... Please let these comments be made part of your hearing record. Thank you.

Sincerely

Mr. & Mrs Albert J. Clark Sr.
516 W 3rd
Anaconda Mont.
59711

Dear Sen. Melcher; 7-20-85

I am writing concerning the Rare II Wilderness Bill: PLEASE!! we do not want any logging operations in the West Big Hole River area, nor the East + West Pioneer Mountains, or the Mussigbrod Howell Creek area. The Big Hole River Watershed is badly affected already.

PLEASE: let these comments be made part of your hearing record.

THANK YOU

Sincerely,

Susan P. Clark
516 W 3rd
Anaconda, Mt 59711

7/7/83
705 Cherry
Anaconda, MT.
59711

Senator John Melcher
55 W. Granite
Butte, MT. 59701

Sir:

Please make this statement part of the hearing record.

I support creation of a 75,000 acre wilderness in the West Big Hole, 88,000 in the East Pioneer, a 30,000 acre addition to the Pintler in the Mussigbrod area and the Storm Lake addition to the North Pintler Particularly important to me are 150,000 acres in the West Pioneer Its value untouched is too high to count and its attributes, as an addition to the Wilderness Preservation System, to many to mention. I am pro preservation in my area to protect the quality of land and water I drink, fish and play in and to protect the life that me & mine and those to come enjoy.

Joe Ferguson

7/1/83

Dear Senator,

Please make my comments part of your July 7th meeting in Anaconda, since I could not get on the agenda.

First of all, I feel, and by I, that includes my family and friends, that the West Big Hole and West Pioneer areas need no more logging or roads. It seems the only way to accomplish this is through "Wilderness" designation.

These areas along with the Wisconsin Howell Creek study area, offer us the best fishing and hunting in the entire state. Already too much of our Rock Creek and Big Hole

areas have been ruined
by clear-cuts and roads.
Elk calving in these opened
areas has been altered
and often times removed.
Anaconda and Butte have
been beat to their knees by
W.R.K.Co., so it would seem
that if we keep these other areas
pristine maybe it would
be a drawing card. All you
have to do is walk through
our Anaconda Pintler Wilderness
to appreciate nature and
beauty as it was meant to
be.
Please help protect our
Big Hole

Thank you,
Tom McKay
1007 West 11th
Anaconda, MT.
59711

452 E. Village Drive
Bigfork, Montana
59911

6/29/83

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing in regards to the statewide Montana wilderness bill for which the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is holding hearings. I am unable to attend the hearings, but would like my views to become a part of the official hearing record.

I am very much in favor in adding the three areas under study to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I am particularly interested in the addition of the Swan Front under which I live. This is important elk and grizzly habitat and should be preserved. I am also concerned with the effect development would have on the creeks feeding into the Swan River, which is as yet untainted.

Thank-you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hill

540 Northern Avenue
Mill Valley, California 94941

July 17,1983

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please make my letter a part of the record of the Bob Marshall Completion Bill Hearing.

I strongly support all of the wilderness additions proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance. Most are integrally connected to Bob Marshall by being outstanding wildlife areas, and three are also important for their access trails to Bob Marshall, and for their recreational opportunities.

I had the privilege of sharing in RARE 2 as a participating citizen . Most of the areas here recommended were recommended then for Wilderness status. It is inconceivable to me that now, many years later, it has still not been accomplished. It is now in your hands, Senator, and those of your Delegation. Do not fail us.

Most Sincerely

Phillipa Taylor

Phillipa Taylor

Daniel Simon
3123 Mentor
Wichita, Kansas
67213

Dear Senator Melcher:

I am writing to express my strong support for legislation which would protect outstanding natural areas in Montana's National Forests as part of the Wilderness System.

In particular I urge Congress to add adjacent areas to the Bob Marshall Wilderness so that this special wilderness and its magnificent wildlife will be a better protected ecosystem. These areas include Deep Creek, Swan Front, Monture Creek, Falls Creek, Renshaw Mt., Chateau Mt., and Teton River High Peaks.

I also support adding Deep Creek into the Lee Metcalf Wilder-

bill, and creation of more National Forest Wilderness areas in other areas of Montana.

I believe that Montana's great natural beauty is too important to allow this opportunity to add more areas to the Wilderness System to pass without action. Both wildlife and humans need such undisturbed areas protected from the on-rush of civilization.

Please add my support for Montana Wilderness Areas into the official hearing record.

Sincerely,
Daniel Simon

July 17th 1983
George Wildener
1010 Haskill Basin Rd.
Whitefish, Mt. 59937

Sen. John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher,

I am writing to voice my wholehearted support for the additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex as proposed by the Bob Marshall alliance. All of the areas: The Swan Front, Mouture Creek, Falls Creek - Silver King, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, Teton River - High Peaks and Chateau Mountain will add protection to the Bob Marshall not only as a buffer but also as a unique extension of a complete ecosystem. Each area would greatly enhance the Bob Marshall complex and help it retain a true wilderness character. I'm sorry the Lower Two Medicine Drainage isn't included in the proposal.

The vast majority of Federal lands in the lower 48 are managed mainly for the timber they produce. Relatively few areas of wilderness character are left. This proposal, as I'm sure you're aware, would add 400,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Complex. Considering the amount of land currently opened for develope-

ment, 400,000 acres is a relatively small amount.

The purported oil and gas which lies beneath these areas should be saved until last, when we have better extraction methods and a better use for it than burning it.

Roaded forest access was a concern brought out in the hearings. One needs only to drive to the Flathead or Kootenai National Forests or the Bitterroots or the Lewis and Clark, etc. to find that. The vast majority of forest lands are roaded with very easy access - and it shows in land quality or lack of it.

Please spare a few areas so my children have a place to go to enjoy nature away from man's machines. For the sake of elk and grizzlies and coyotes and all animals still wild, and for the sake of future generations please designate these areas as wilderness. I'll firmly support you. Thankyou very much. Please include my comments in the official hearing record.

Sincerely,
George Wiedener

July 14, 1983

Dear Sir,

I am very tired of the hassle on the R.A.R.E II issue. It has been going on for too many years and enough is enough. And the Omnibus Wilderness Bill will help resolve this.

Please enter this statement into the Hearing record.

Sincerely,
Nancy Ploykar

27-608 O - 84 - 75

FTR

Dew Lodge Mt.
July 14 - 1983

Dear Sir,

I am very tired of Rare II Bills. I would like to see this settled. I am in favor of the Omnibus Wilderness Bill, Please enter this into the records.

Sincerely
Sheila Rogers

Harrison, Mt.
July 14, 1983

Dear Sir,

We feel that the Rare II and all other wilderness bills have taken to long and think they should be settled.

We think the omnibus wilderness bill is the best ways to settle this hassle.

Please enter this into the record.

Sincerely,

Harry & Beryle Poulsom
Box 31
Harrison, MT 59731

New Lodges Mt.
July 14, 1983

Dear Sir:

We are tired of the wilderness bills (Rare II Hassle) so we would like to see it ended though the omnibus wilderness bill. Please enter this into the record.

Sincerely
Ray + Norma Stapp

CHARLES MARBET
STAR RT.
DARBY, MT. 59829

JAN 10, 1979

[illegible] RECORD

[illegible] WILDERNESS DESIGNATION
[illegible] ROADLESS AREAS.

IN PARTICULAR:

RARE II AREA [illegible] ALONG BOULDER PEAK INCLUDING NELSON CR. DRAINAGE, THIS PRIMARILY HIGH, STEEP COUNTRY WITH MARGINAL TIMBER POTENTIAL & A BIG RECREATIONAL POSSIBILITY.

RARE II AREA 1-062 TO INCLUDE BAKER LAKE INSIDE THE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY.

RARE II AREA 1-062 NORTH FORK WEST HORSE CR. — THIS IS A REALLY PRECIPITOUS DRAINAGE DESERVING WILDERNESS CLASSIFICATION.

RARE II AREA 1-061 BLODGETT CANYON — THE "YOSEMITE OF THE BITTERROOTS" A TRULY CLASSIC PIECE OF GLACIAL EROSION. COMBINED WITH GRANITE UPLIFT.

RARE II AREA (?) THE TEN LAKES AREA ON THE KOOTENAI

RARE II AREA 1-785 THE SWAN RANGE - THESE MAGNIFICENT PEAKS DESERVE INCLUSION IN THE BOB MARSHALL BLOCK.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Charles Marbet

Dear Lodge, Mt.
July 14, 1983

Dear Sir;

I am tired of this Rare II hassle, & would like to see it ended. I am in favor of the Omnibus Wilderness Bill. Please enter this into the Record.

Thank you
Sincerely,
Donna M. McKeene
Box 362
Deer Lodge, Mt
59722

William V. Peterson
213 Holcomb Ave. N.
Litchfield, Minnesota 55355

July 12, 1983

Senator John Melcher, U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;-

I strongly support the Bob Marshall Alliance & its ideas for a lot of Wilderness in the State of Montana & everywhere for that matter!! I also am 100 percent for the recommendations & ideas for Wilderness in Montana which the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, etc. are interested in.

As I have stated before - let us have lots & lots of Wilderness & wildlife habitat!! Clean earth, Clean Air & Clean Water.

Make these Comments a part of the official Hearing Record.

Wm. Peterson

July 7, 1983

Senator John Melcher
55 West Granite
Butte, MT. 59701

Attention Sir:

I submit this written statement as part of the Anaconda wilderness hearing record:

As an avid recreationist and former Forest Service employee in the Beaverhead National Forest, I strongly urge you to designate all the proposed wilderness areas as such. There are already huge amounts of land available for development, and I shudder to think that these gorgeous natural beauty areas may be subjected to any possible modification by man. Please support an end to any more studies and move on to the actuality of preserving as much of our land as possible. Having relocated here in Montana from the East has really opened my eyes as to what's important in life. I feel that the environment is the strongest impact on each individual and society as a whole. The wonder of what I've experienced in Montana

country should not be taken for granted nor exploited. I am dedicated to the hope that mine and other's children can luxuriate in our natural areas. I have seen what happened in the East and the West Coast. It is now spreading to our country. Please save what little we have left and support designated wilderness areas - as much as we can possibly get.

Thank You,

Jackie Foster
1000 E. Sebree
Dillon, MT. 59725

ANACONDA

CHARLES MABBER
STAR Rte.
DARBY, MT.
59829

DEAR SENATOR MELCHER/

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS LETTER IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THIS SUMMERS WILDERNESS HEARINGS.

I SUPPORT A MAXIMUM OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR MONTANAS REMAINING ROADLESS AREAS.

IN PARTICULAR:

RARE II AREA # 1-943 THE WEST BIG HOLE, THESE PEAKS ARE AMONG THE FINEST IN WESTERN MONTANA.

RARE II AREA # 1-008 THE EAST PIONEERS, REAL HIGH COUNTRY

FVR

July 24, 1983

420 Woodford
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Senator Melcher:

Please include this statement in the official hearing record for the RARE II hearings.

I am only writing about areas which I am personally familiar with.

The Mission Mountains addition is very important to the integrity of that Wilderness.

The South Fork of Lolo Creek and Carlton Lake should long ago have been made Wilderness. Each area has beautiful views of high peaks. The alpine flower is very similar to the high country of the Mission Mtns. Wilderness. But, logging activity keeps pushing up the drainage of Twin Creek and threatens the high country on the north slopes of Lolo Peak.

Cube Iron Mountain - Mt. Silcox deserves Wilderness status due to its immense popularity with locals in Thompson Falls. I also have packed into the area and found it very interesting and beautiful.

Quigg Peak is already planned to be roadless, so Wilderness status would complement Welcome Creek. There are no timber values here.

(over)

The Jewel Basin deserves protection as Wilderness due to its popularity. It is threatened by oil & gas development. It is far more important as a hiking area and brings many people to the area.

Monture Creek also needs more protection as Wilderness. It is a very important ~~that~~ entrance to the Bob Marshall.
The Swan Front also should be Wilderness.

I am very concerned about these proposals. I think that the fact that Montana protects its wild places greatly enhances the quality of life for myself and my family. The wild back country is the reason why I choose to live and work in Montana. I would like to say that I support the M.W.A.'s "Alternative W"; but please don't count this as a token vote.

Sincerely,

Joe Rippkat

FVR

7/22/83

Gail & Chet McGlothlin
243 O'Brian Ave, Apt #3
Whitefish, MT 59937

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher

Just a stat note to inform you that Gail & I are in favor of Alternative W" as proposed by the Montana Wilderness Assoc. We also favor the need for soft rather than hard release of appropriate non-wilderness Rare II areas.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gail & Chet McGlothlin

PS Please put this letter in official hearing record.

Thanks,